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ABSTRACT

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) was founded in 1912 for the purpose of encouraging and supporting existing educational provision provided by the local authority, university, and other local educational institutions; working to stimulate and promote the interest of the working class in liberal arts studies; and making recommendations to the local authorities on matters pertaining to all forms of education. The WEA evolved a three-tier administrative structure--national, district, and branch. The foundations of the WEA in Bath, England, can be traced to the work of the Bath Centre of the Oxford University Extension Movement. It was hoped that a local WEA branch would attract more working class students into the extension program. The branch launched an extensive program of activities ranging from study groups, single lectures, visits, short courses, and a three-year tutorial class. After enduring the financial strains caused by World War II, the branch began an encouraging period of steady expansion, with the program setting new records nearly every year. Although not as successful in attracting educationally disadvantaged individuals as it would have liked, the Bath branch has continued to provide educational opportunities to workers through a partnership of full-time staff and part-time voluntary tutors from teaching and nonteaching backgrounds alike. (MN)

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A HISTORY OF THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION - BATH BRANCH 1912-87

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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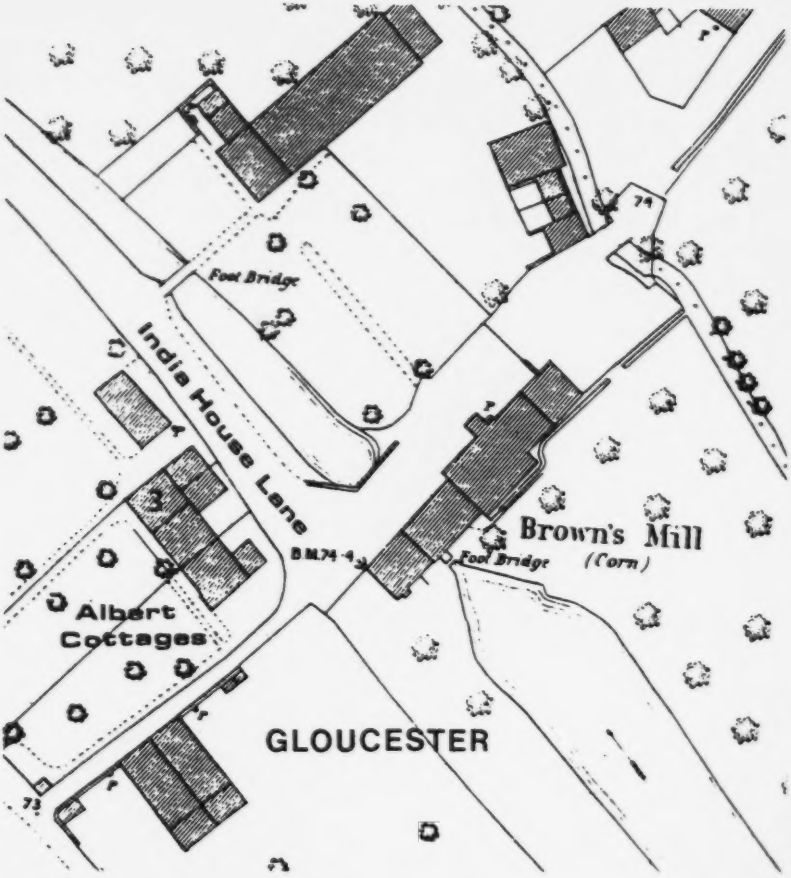
November 1987

THE ORIGINS OF THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The nineteenth century was to see many social improvements in national life, not least in the field of education. At the beginning of the century the majority of people received no school education in childhood, large numbers could neither read nor write, and the universities were very remote from the ordinary man and woman. There was clearly a need to provide for those who had little or no schooling and adult education can be traced to the educational idealism of such working class movements as Adult Schools, Mechanics' Institutes, Trade Unions and Co-operative Societies, and later to the University-initiated Extension Movement. The impetus of working people to study usually came from association with such organisations which had awakened their intellectual curiosity. Following their formation in 1844, many of the Co-operative Societies devoted 2½% of their profits to educational purposes, initially used for the purchase of books and papers for members but the money was later directed towards the provision of lectures and classes.

The University Extension Movement which was formed at Cambridge in 1873 and spread to Oxford five years later was devoted to the promotion of University lecture courses for the public, but failure to obtain government grant aid meant that classes locally had to be self-financing. This led to the need to attract large numbers by presenting short attractive lecture courses with a regular change of subject. In an attempt to provide in depth study for those who wanted it, optional discussion groups followed the formal lectures and participants were encouraged to prepare essays for correction and to take an examination at the end of the course. Further opportunity for study was provided by Summer Schools which were held alternatively in Oxford and Cambridge. The fact that working people who attended these lectures had no share in the management caused their attendance to decline, much to the disappointment of the leaders of the extension movement.

By the beginning of the twentieth century the time was ripe for fresh developments to create an organisation which would bring together the existing working class movements in a spirit of partnership with the Universities with sufficient funds to allow sustained study at modest cost. This was the vision of Albert Mansbridge. Born in Gloucester on 10 January 1876, the fourth son of Thomas Mansbridge, a humble carpenter, he was to be brought up in the family home at 3 Albert Cottages, India House Lane, Barton St Mary. Four years later the family moved to London and the following year, settled in Battersea where



he was to grow up. Winning scholarships to Sir Walter St John's Middle School and Battersea Grammar School, his promising academic career was cut short at the age of fourteen when his father could not be persuaded that he should pursue his studies, despite the fact that his three elder brothers were in full-time employment. Mansbridge was to become a boy clerk in the Civil Service and later a clerk with the Co-operative Wholesale Society which provided him with a base for active work in the co-operative movement, whilst he also attended extension lectures. He joined the Church of England and in due course became an active lay worker which brought him into contact with many leading churchmen of the day. During this period he was to marry fellow Sunday School teacher Frances Jane Pringle. In 1899 Mansbridge was given the opportunity to read a paper on 'The Co-operative Movement and the Education of Citizens' at a conference of co-operators held in connection with Oxford University Extension Summer School. This opportunity to advance his ideas was unfortunately lost due to his aggressive tone which belittled that which has been achieved.

By the Spring of 1903, Mansbridge returned to the theme more tactfully with three short articles in the University Extension Journal which were well received and out of these came the need for a new Association. Being a man of action as well as dreams, Mansbridge took the first step towards founding such an association. Frances provided her husband with 2s 6d from the housekeeping money as the first membership fee and together they elected themselves as honorary secretary and founder members of the 'Association to Promote the Higher Education of Working Men' (renamed Workers' Educational Association in 1905). The new Association was formally launched at a conference held during the Oxford Summer School in August 1903. The movement was well and truly alive with the spirit of youth, adventure, discovery and a sense of mission.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE ASSOCIATION

To spread the message of the WEA a series of carefully planned conferences were arranged in different parts of the country. These were attended by representatives of a wide range of working class organisations, as well as university men, sympathetic churchmen, politicians and interested individuals. At most of these conferences a branch emerged to develop the work locally and the first was to be established at Reading in October 1904. The branch was democratic and autonomous, subject only to a commitment to the ideas of the association. It consisted of a federation of local educational and working class organisations. The Reading Branch Constitution was to be a model for future branches and copies were issued as a pamphlet by WEA National Office. Its aims were:—

a. To encourage and support existing educational provision provided by the local authority, university and other local educational institutions.

b. To endeavour to stimulate and promote the interest of the working class in liberal studies such as history, literature, art, science, citizenship and music.

c. To make such representations as may seem desirable to the local authorities concerned on matters pertaining to all forms of education.

It was stated that the Association was to be definitely non-sectarian and non-party political.

Initially the WEA used university extension lectures, but the problem emerged of securing large audiences to make the courses financially viable, whilst such numbers did not allow effective teaching to take place.

In 1908 two experimental tutorial classes were arranged, one in Rochdale and one at Longton in North Staffordshire at which the number of students was to be limited. Mansbridge, not

content with the planning of these two classes, pressed Oxford University to lead the way in the development of a nation-wide system and this led to a conference in Oxford in August 1907 which approved the appointment of a Joint WEA/University Committee to explore future tutorial class provision. More importantly Sir Robert Morant, Permanent Secretary to the Board of Education was sufficiently impressed by the high academic aspirations of the WEA that he promised grant-aid. By November 1908, the joint committee had published a report recommending tutorial classes for not more than thirty students lasting for two years (almost immediately increased to three years), a joint central committee consisting of equal WEA/University representation with its own officers and funds and local control in the hands of the WEA branch. So started the Tutorial Class system which was an outstanding success and was later to be described as the most distinctive feature of English liberal non-vocational adult education.

Following the establishment of the Reading Branch in 1904, further branches were formed and by 1906 there were 13, by 1912 110 and an increase to over 300 by 1920. Branches continued to be formed, rising from 635 just before the Second World War to 932 just after, a rise which has now levelled out.

The WEA evolved a three-tier administrative structure — National, District and Branch — but following the creation of a national movement it was the branches which were next to be formed. Only later, when these branches were established did a District organisation emerge as a springboard for further development and to provide a common administrative base. In 1904 a meeting in Manchester laid the foundations of the pioneer district — the North-Western. Other Districts followed there were 6 by 1912 increasing to 13 by 1920 and numbers reached 18 by 1930. These figures stabilised until 1946, when the present complement of 21 Districts within the United Kingdom was established. Initially districts covered large areas, but as the number of branches grew, boundaries were re-drawn as new districts were formed.

THE FOUNDING OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT

The first branch to be established in this area was Bristol on 9 March 1907. In the early years the branch devoted a considerable amount of time encouraging those, who because they had left school at an early age with limited vocabulary and were not used to sustained mental effort, being more accustomed to snippets of information. To provide an atmosphere as little like school as possible, small groups would often meet in the homes of one of the members, while larger groups met in the rooms normally used by members of that particular society. These groups came to be known as Study Circles. The following sample covers just one week in February 1911.

Feb. 18—"Water," Mr. O. C. M. Davis, M.Sc., the University, 3.15.
Feb. 19—"Land Tenure, &c.," Mr. Montague Fordham, Society Rooms, Broad Street, 10.45 a.m.
Feb. 20—"Hiawatha," Miss Earle, Beehive Broad Plain Club, 8.
Feb. 21—"Women's Responsibilities to Children," Miss Cook, Brislington Women's Adult School, 7.45.
Feb. 21—"Functions of the State towards External Matters," Mr. E. A. Walker, B.A., Castle Schools, 8.
Feb. 22—"Words and their Ways," Dr. F. E. A. Campbell, Shirehampton Men's Adult School, 7.30.
Feb. 23—"Local Government" (5), Mr. H. E. Matthews, Easton Men's Adult School.
Feb. 23—"Health," Miss Dahl, Broad Plain Young Mothers' Meeting, 3.15.
Feb. 23—"Local Government" (2), Miss Jowitt, Bishopston Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.
Feb. 23—"Westward Ho!" Miss Macey, Horfield Women's Adult School, 7.30.
Feb. 23—"Why of the Weather," Miss Sheppard, Hotwells Women's Adult School, 8.
Feb. 23—"The Poor Law," Mrs. Falk, Tyndale Senior Girls' Club.
Feb. 23—"Plant and Animal Life," Miss Odling, St. Anne's Park Women's Adult School, 7.45.
Feb. 23—"George Fox," Prof. G. H. Leonard, M.A., the University, 8.
Feb. 24—"Physics (2), Air Waves," Mr. A. M. Tyndall, the University, 8.
Feb. 24—"Industrial History (3), Towns and their Charters," Mr. E. A. Jackson, Brislington Men's Adult School, 8.

The Swindon Branch was established on 6 May 1908 and by the Autumn had thrown itself into tutorial class work with the launching of a three year class on Social Economics under the auspices of the Oxford University Joint Committee with Mr R V Lennard of New College, Oxford, as tutor. The branch also developed shorter courses, Saturday evening lectures, socials and summer rambles.

By 1909 the majority of branches, nationally, served large urban centres and the WEA was keen to develop work in the rural areas. Reuben George took up the challenge, and together with students from the tutorial class set out to establish, nurture and develop branches in the areas around Swindon. In this way they were successful as 1910 was to see the emergence of branches at Chiseldon, Rodbourne Cheney, Wroughton and also at Woodborough near Pewsey. This

involvement by the tutorial class students came twelve months before similar work in the Potteries, which is an oft-quoted example in the annals of the WEA.

After Swindon, the next branch to be formed was Gloucester in October 1908. Initially the branch concentrated on single lectures and summer rambles, and only later provided short courses. By 1911 the branch embarked on its first tutorial class on the subject of Economics and Industrial History under the auspices of the Oxford University Joint Committee. By this time Swindon had completed a fourth year of its tutorial class and had started a second course on Political Economy.

With this complement of seven branches, the first steps were taken to set up a district organisation. In 1910 the annual meeting of the Association was to be held in Reading and this provided an ideal opportunity to sound out the views of the various branches. Swindon arranged to send twenty representatives, while Bristol contributed a further ten, with smaller groups from the other branches. The representatives supported the idea of a Western District. As a result of this, a meeting was arranged in Bristol on 11 February 1911 and presided over by Albert Mansbridge, this meeting was formally to establish the District to embrace the counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset and Devon. (Devon was to be transferred to the South Western District in 1919 and East Dorset to the Southern District in 1928.) At the first Council Meeting held in Swindon on 8 April 1911, W R Straker, who was corresponding secretary of the Bristol Branch, was appointed the first District Secretary in a part-time honorary capacity due to the almost complete lack of financial resources. But despite this huge geographical area, few existing branches and lack of funds, the first tentative steps had been taken to establish the Western District.

THE FOUNDING OF THE BATH BRANCH

The foundations of the WEA in Bath can be traced to the work of the Bath Centre of the Oxford University Extension Movement. The Centre was established in 1886 under the secretaryship of John Lum Stothert, who was one of the original partners of the local engineering works of Stothert & Pitt Limited. Accommodation was secured at the Guildhall and at the Bath College where a series of six linked lectures were arranged at both locations each Spring and Autumn on a wide range of popular subjects. Following each lecture students were encouraged to remain to participate in the discussion and to prepare essays for marking by the tutor, as well as sitting

OXFORD UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

BATH CENTRE.

SYLLABUS OF SIX LECTURES ON

THE NEW GEOGRAPHY

(Illustrated by Lime-Light and Screen Pictures),

To be given at

THE GUILDHALL,

By Permission of His WORSHIP the MAYOR by

MR. H. J. MACKINDER, B.A., F.R.G.S.

(Late Junior Student of Christ Church, Oxford.)

Feb. 24—Winds. March 17—Rivers.
March 3—Mountains. ,, 24—Climates.
,, 10—Currents. ,, 31—Geographical Changes.

A VOLUNTARY EXAMINATION on the COURSE will be held at a date not yet fixed, on the results of which Certificates and Prizes will be awarded.

The Lectures will commence at 8 o'Clock p.m. Tickets for the Course, Transferable, 5s., 4s., and 2s., may be obtained, after February 14, of Mr. PEARSON, 14, Milsom Street. Tickets for Single Lectures may be purchased at the Guildhall from the Attendant 2s., 1s., and 6d.

There will be an AFTERNOON COURSE at BATH COLLEGE at 5 p.m., for which Tickets, at above prices—not transferable—can be obtained from Mr. PEARSON.

The MAYOR has kindly promised to preside at the Opening Meeting, February 24, and will at the close distribute the Prizes and Certificates to those who successfully passed the Examination held at the close of 1886.

J. L. STOTHERT, Hon. Sec.

Audley, Park Gardens; February, 1887.

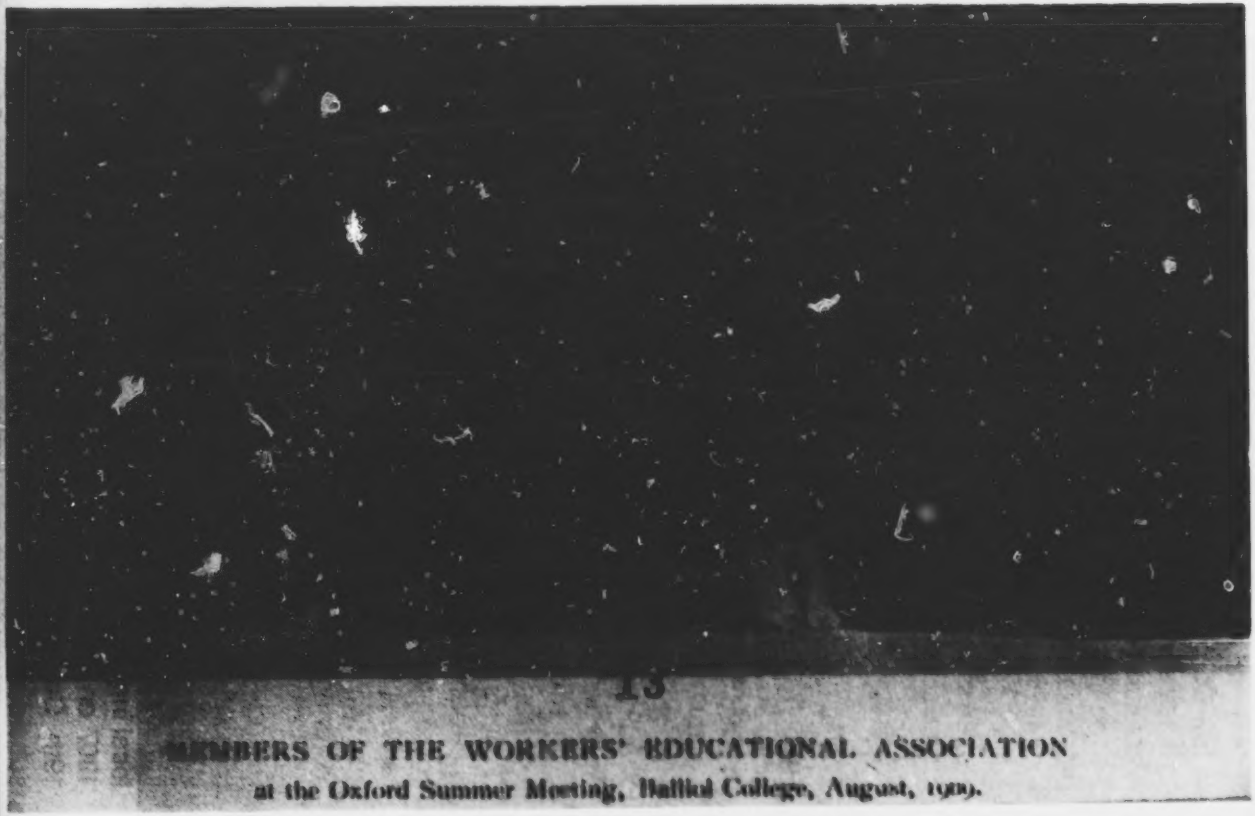
Bath Weekly Chronicle
17 February 1887

11 BEST COPY AVAILABLE

for the end of term voluntary examination. The annual meeting of the Centre saw the presentation of prizes and certificates to those successful in the examination, receive the examiners and tutors reports and provide discussion on possible subjects for the forthcoming academic year. This pattern of provision remained remarkably unchanged for many years. From time to time the annual meeting expressed concern about the scarity of male students, indeed it is clear that the Centre was largely supported by a loyal band of spinsters who among their duties sold course tickets to those living in the vicinity of their homes.

The usual pattern of lectures involved a frequent change of subject, with the principal topics covering architecture, literature, physical geography, poetry, science and history, but in 1896 Mr Marriott (later Sir John) the Oxford Historian and Secretary to the Oxford University Extension Delegacy (later MP for Oxford and York) came to Bath to provide a series of four linked 6 meeting courses spread over two years on 'The Commonwealth, the Restoration and the Revolution'. Apart from encouraging a greater committment from students, the lectures were designed to prepare pupil teachers to sit the Queen's Scholarship examinations. The lectures were received with enthusiasm and eighteen students were to successfully complete each of the four end of term examinations. In his farewell speech John Marriott said that he looked back on the last two years as among the best spent in the whole of his lecturing life.

Recognising the need to attract working class students into the Oxford Extension Movement, John Marriott urged the Bath Centre to establish a Branch in the large and populous industrial suburb of Twerton. After a considerable amount of local inquiry, an experimental class was launched in February 1907 on the subject of 'Political and Social Problems of the 19th Century'. In order to attract students the fees were subsidised by the Centre, the result was encouraging, the



13

MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
at the Oxford Summer Meeting, Balliol College, August, 1909.

average attendance was 120 and consisted mainly of working men and much to the surprise of the organisers practically the whole audience remained for the discussion period, though there was not the same enthusiasm for participating in the end of term examination. This development at Twerton is interesting as it came some months before the famous conference at Oxford University on 'Oxford and Working Class Education' which put the seal of approval on the formation of tutorial classes with fees subsidised by grants from central government and from individual Universities. John Marriott who had been a keen supporter of the WEA since its inception had expected to be given some general oversight of the work, was out manoeuvred by Albert Mansbridge, such that this work was to proceed independently of the Extension Delegacy.

Subsidised lectures were to continue at Twerton and in 1909 Robert Naish who was later to earn the title 'Twerton Historian' passed the end of term examination with distinction and was awarded a scholarship to the WEA Oxford Summer School, he is shown circled in the obligatory group photograph opposite. Albert Mansbridge is standing in the second row behind the lady in the centre of the front row. 1909 was also to bring financial problems for the Centre as for the first time in its history the Guildhall lectures were not well attended and made a heavy loss, this coupled with a deficit from the Twerton class placed the future of the Centre in jeopardy. The Oxford Extension Delegacy realising the extent of the difficulties being faced by the local committee generously offered to refund 50% of the Oxford bill for the Twerton course, the acceptance of this offer coupled with the donations from individuals eased the financial situation and the committee were able to turn its attention to the management of the Twerton class. It was decided that for the future its function would be:—

1. To choose the subject of the lectures, the choice of the lecturer being left to the general meeting.

2. To make and control all the local arrangements for the course of lectures at Twerton

3. That there be a joint and general meeting of both centres, but this shall not preclude Twerton having a general meeting of its own before the joint meeting.

Also in 1909 University College Bristol was granted its Charter which allowed it to become a fully fledged University. This in due course led to the proposal to set up a Bath Committee to sponsor classes for the public using tutors drawn from Bristol University. As this would be in direct competition to those classes being planned by the Oxford Extension Committee a meeting was arranged between the two groups to review the situation and this led to the decision of the Oxford Extension Committee to:

1. Suspend its activities.
2. To join forces with the Bath Committee of Bristol University.
3. To offer a grant of six guineas to the Bath Committee if they would consent to carry on the evening lectures at Twerton.

The above were confirmed at a public meeting held at the Guildhall on 24 March 1911.

A month before this, the decision had been made to launch the WEA Western District and one of the tasks of the newly appointed District Secretary was to encourage the growth of new branches. By the early part of 1912 contact had been made with a number of leading figures in the City who had a burden for adult education, one of these Edward Bence attended a meeting of the Bath Committee of Bristol University on 23 February 1912 in order to acquaint them of the aims and objectives of the WEA and to invite members to the public

meeting to be held in the Guildhall on 22 March when the formation of a WEA branch in Bath would be discussed. Apart from the address by Edward Bence the meeting received a report that the Twerton class had not been well attended and as a result there was a deficit of £12 3s 11d, doubts were raised over the ability of the Committee to continue organising such classes, the hope was however expressed that the newly formed WEA branch might be able to do something to take the place of the Twerton lectures.

The meeting on 22 March 1912 was well attended and after hearing a speech from Edward Jackson, secretary of the Bristol WEA Branch and Professor Leonard of Bristol University the assembly overwhelmingly agreed to appoint a provisional committee to draft a constitution and to submit this to the organisations in the City for comment. This latter was a very important function as the WEA did not come to compete with anything that was already being provided, but to provide a service to unite existing societies who were encouraged to affiliate to the branch.

The provisional committee having completed its work the Inaugural Meeting of the Bath Branch was held at the Guildhall on 9 May 1912. After receiving and approving the constitution, the meeting listened to an inspired address by the General Secretary Albert Mansbridge. He outlined the work of the Association nationally, including the story of the approach made in one city to carters and lorrymen who requested a course on the Horse. The resulting course attracted an average attendance to 120. It was stories such as this that were to show the relevance of the WEA, and Bath was proud to become part of this tradition.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE BATH BRANCH

The branch launched an extensive programme of activities ranging from Study Groups, single lectures, visits, short courses and a three year Tutorial Class. It also successfully persuaded the local Education Committee to approve the building a new Secondary School and played host to the WEA branches of Bristol, Swindon and South Gloucestershire when they visited the City on 21 September 1912 to view the Roman Baths, while the branch provided guides to other places of interest in the City and later tea for the visitors.

The Study Groups were built up on the pattern established by the Bristol Branch as a service to affiliated societies. Individuals who volunteered to provide talks gave their services free, while the society requesting the talk covered travelling expenses. The 1913/14 Branch Programme reproduced at the end of this booklet shows the range of subjects offered.

1912 had seen the establishment of a provisional Bristol University Tutorial Classes Joint Committee and the branch had the distinction of arranging the very first tutorial class under its auspices, the subject being Economics taken by Mr Percy Anstey who had recently transferred to Bristol from the University of Durham where he had taken tutorial classes previously. The administrative charges and tuition fee for a tutorial class came to £70 and the obtaining of grants were important in defraying costs. Bristol University agreed to a grant of £30 which was matched by a similar amount from Central Government funds, to meet the balance the branch applied to the City Council for a grant of £10 which was approved by the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee, but when this was reported to the full Council one Alderman commented that 'It was a dangerous principle to make a grant to outside bodies, over whose proceedings they had no real control, and whose teaching, of course, they were not able to check,' the Chairman replied that 'they were not setting a precedent as

they provided prizes for those who sent their cattle at Christmas, and for the Territorial, and in neither case did they have an effective control, but with the WEA they sent representatives to their committee, who were able to follow the business transacted. The tutorial class was a comparitively new institution, but the leaders in this particular case were connected with the University of Bristol. The students, who were artisans, contributed 2s each for the session, but seeing that the expenses amounted to £70, it was clear that the fees paid, with the grant from the University of Bristol, and that from the Board of Education did not cover the entire cost.' The action of the sub-committee was endorsed.

In 1912 Albert Mansbridge had accepted an invitation to visit Australia and as a result a number of Farewell gatherings were arranged including one at Bristol University on 3 May 1913. The branch received a letter of invitation from Professor Leonard to attend and this was enthusiastically taken up. Miss Helen Hope, Bath's first woman Councillor and a Vice-President of the branch was to propose a vote of thanks to the University and to the ladies of the Catering Committee. Albert and his wife Frances were to spend five months in Australia speaking to all kinds of organisations and laying the foundations of the Association overseas.

Mr G C Kingscote

The branch was fortunate to have as one of its Vice-Presidents Mr G C Kingscote who as Manager of the Pitman Press offered to print the branch programme. This was to prove an invaluable contribution as apart from a few years during the Second World War this service has been provided every year up until the present day. The Pitman Press was re-named the Bath Press in 1985.

Prior to the First World War there had been a huge increase in demand for shorthand, commercial and literary publications in Australia and New Zealand, as a result of this the Pitman

Albert and Frances Mansbridge photographed
at Sydney, Australia in 1913

16

Press decided to set up a new office in Melbourne and Mr Kingscote was appointed as its first Manager. Tendering his resignation from the Bath Branch in September 1913 he was able to attend the Inaugural Meeting of the Victoria WEA Branch on 25 March 1914 when he was elected hon. treasurer, a position he was to hold until 1917. Retaining his contacts with the WEA he was appointed to the WEA Executive in 1921 and the following year elected as one of six Vice-Presidents. His active support for the WEA was maintained for the next two years when he stepped down from office.

Centre of our own

Miss Helen Hope was one of the active supporters of the Bath Branch and it was on one Sunday afternoon in April 1913 that Consuelo Mary de Reyes, a close friend of Miss Hope and Robert Naish branch Press Officer were invited to the home of Miss Hope at Rock House on Lansdown. Certainly the latter was unaware of the reason for the invitation but it soon became apparent that Miss Hope wanted to explore the idea of establishing a 'Centre' for the WEA in Bath on the first floor of No. 2 Chandos Buildings.

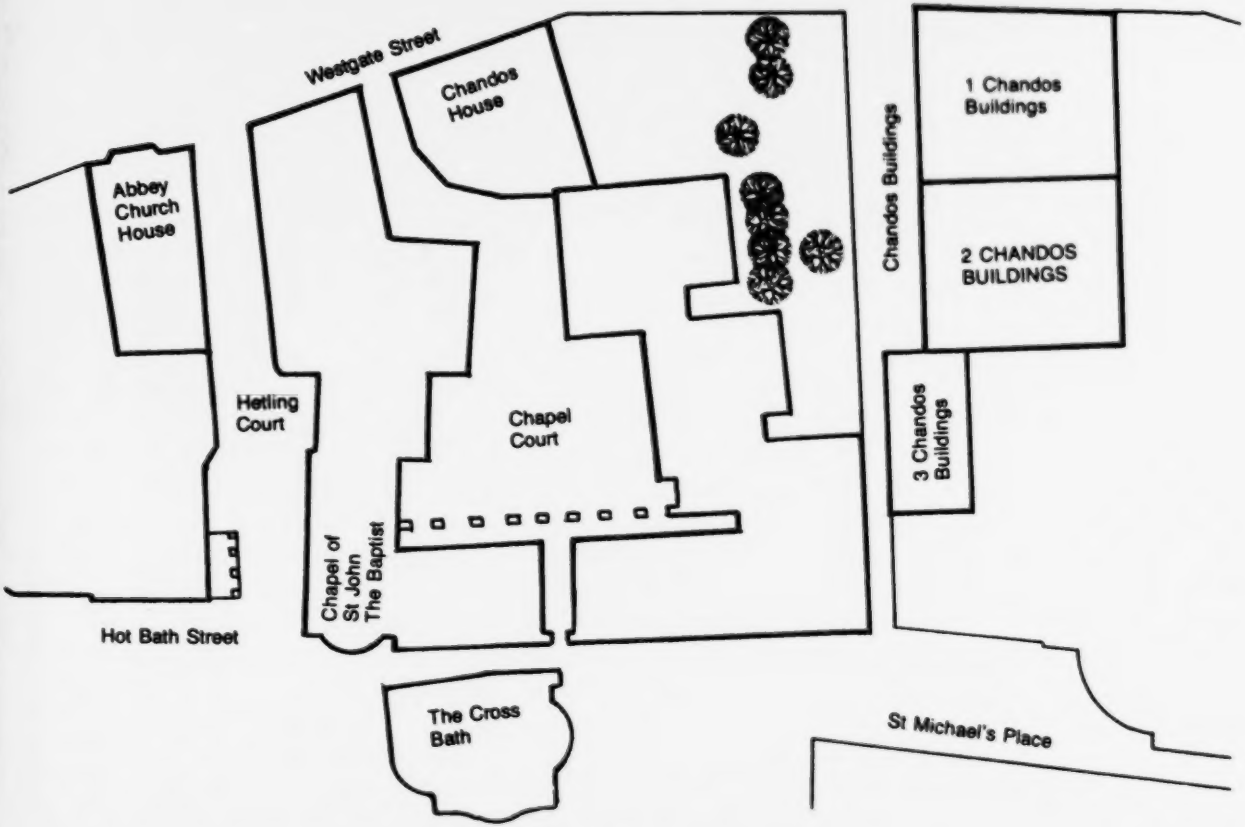
Robert Naish was not convinced that those associated with the branch would support the undertaken but agreed to raise the matter at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. This he did and apart from a word of caution from the Branch President Alderman Bush the meeting unanimously agreed to set up a sub-committee to explore the idea and to report back. This committee was to set out the role of the Centre, its financial upkeep and administration. It also sought the views of other WEA branches who had established centres of their own, namely Chesterfield, High Wycombe and Rochdale. Their report finished, a special General Meeting was convened on 11 June where the proposal received overwhelming support. The WEA took up tenancy on 24 June 1913.

The building itself had been empty for sometime and needed

re-decoration, but the committee anxious to use the building found on the first two occasions that the WEA Rooms were still in the decorators hands and locked. The meetings therefore had to be held in the top attic, the minutes record that these were illuminated by candles. At the second of these two meetings on 4 September 1913 Miss Hope announced that she had secured the lease of the whole building as a Social Centre and that henceforward it would be known as 'CITIZEN HOUSE'. The ground floor was to house the Elizabeth Walker Working Girls Club, an arrangement that was to exist until 1917 when after criticisms made at the annual meeting Miss de Reyes resigned as Secretary and Miss Hope terminated the Clubs tenancy, the first floor housed the WEA and the upper floor a dramatic society known as the Citizen House Players. Miss Hope moved from her home in Lansdown (now the home of Bath High School and re-named Hope House in her memory) to settle at Citizen House. So was to commence a new era in the life of this famous house.

History of Chandos Buildings

When James Duke of Chandos, a noted patron of the arts and a friend of Handel first came to Bath in 1726 he stayed with his wife in lodgings over St John's Hospital. He was later to describe these as 'old rotten lodgings', but observed that the landlady 'wanted not guests all the winter long'. Seizing on the idea of providing a better class of accommodation for fashionable visitors he began to consider plans to develop the rest of the hospital site. For this he engaged the services of a young up and coming architect John Wood, using the hospital as the base line his idea was to provide a square of three sides with the fourth open to Little King's Mead (Westgate Buildings) with views to the Avon Navigation and open country beyond. In the event other buildings blocked the south side of the proposed open square so that by the time Chandos House was completed c1739 the result was a haphazard group of buildings as shown on the plan opposite.


Westgate Street
Chandos House
Abbey Church House
Hetling Court
Chapel Court
Chapel of St John The Baptist
Hot Bath Street
The Cross Bath
Chandos Buildings
1 Chandos Buildings
2 CHANDOS BUILDINGS
3 Chandos Buildings
St Michael's Place

Chandos Building on the north side of the square is believed to have been completed in 1729 and consisted of a five storey block with a fine facade of Bath stone. But while the Duke was pleased by the outside he had strong words to say about the interior. Wooden partitions had to be replaced by brick wall to lessen the noise transmitted between the visitors apartments, the chimneys smoked and there were roof defects to be remedied. But the one thing that made the Duke ashamed and furious was Wood's incompetence and neglect in providing toilet facilities on each floor. In the end the toilets were sited in vaults under the pavement along-side the coal and wood stowage. No wonder that the Duke when writing to one of his landladies expressed the view that 'Mr Wood must be a very vile fellow as well as a bad architect'. At the time Wood was young and inexperienced in costing and the handling of sub-contractors and Chandos could not have forseen the heights Wood was to reach in providing the City with some of its finest buildings.

Chandos Building played its part in a sad and dramatic piece of Bath's history. The Duke of Chandos was host when James, 7th Earl of Strathmore was to be betrothed to a beautiful young heiress, Lady Fanny Erskine. She had another suitor — the middle aged Sir Andrew Gray, who wanted to marry her to relieve his gambling debts and lack of money. He picked a quarrel with the Earl which led to the last duel ever fought in Bath. It took place in Kingsmead Fields and resulted in the Earl being killed. The distressed Lady Fanny scratched on a window which illuminated the main staircase of Chandos Building the words "James, Earl of Strathmore, is dead and gone, quite, quite gone. I am but what you make me". She then threw herself from a top window.

By 1885 Chandos Building had been divided up into two separate houses known as No. 1 and No. 2 Chandos Buildings.

Opening Ceremony

Before the opening ceremony the branch set up a special fund

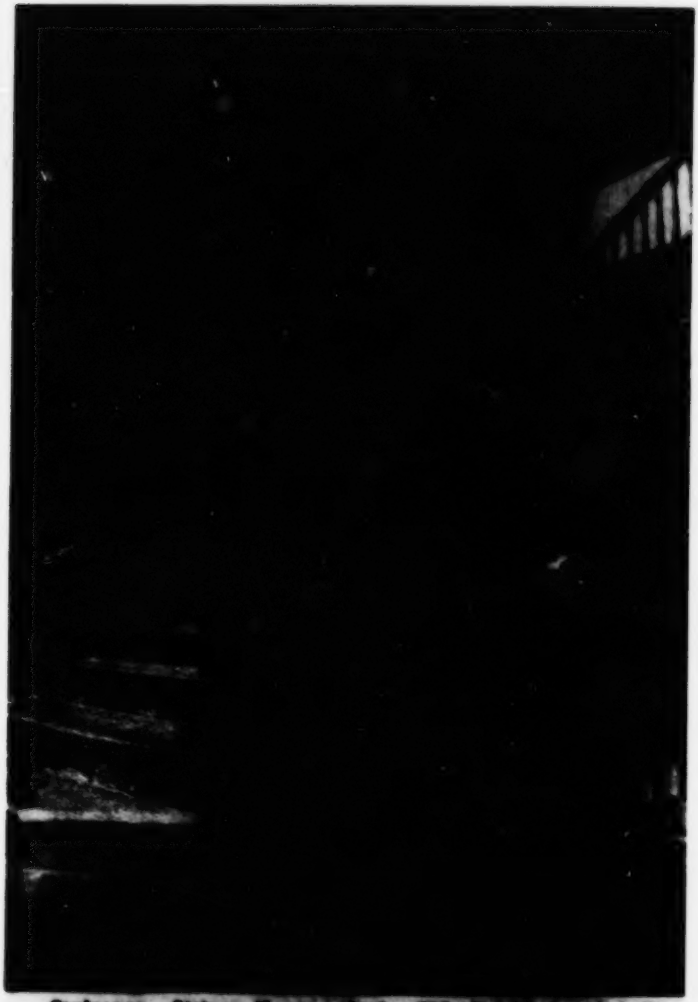
to receive donations to enable items to be purchased to furnish the rooms, while at the same time receiving gifts of chairs and a clock. Soon all was ready and on 10 October 1913 the Centre was officially opened by Sir Isambard Owen, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University. In a hearty speech of welcome Miss Hope said 'we have no spacious halls to ask you to open and no big library to ask you to walk around, you see only here a beginning, nevertheless,' Miss Hope went on, 'she was sure that Sir Isambard Owen would rather give his blessing to a beginning than be asked to come and see a big finality'. Sir Isambard suitably responded before declaring the Centre open. Apart from the close links with Bristol University it was most appropriate to invite Sir Isambard whose godfather was none other than Isambard Kingdom Brunel, as he was in at

WEA CENTRE — CITIZEN HOUSE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Admission free to affiliated and individual members.
2. Open each day from 10am to 10pm. The caretaker to be entirely free from duty on Sundays. Smoking and lounge room provided. Any extension on limitation of time to be subject to the discretion of the Executive.
3. Members of Affiliated Organisations to obtain a ticket from their secretary to use the Centre. Honorary and individual members receive them from the Secretary of the Branch. Tickets to be renewed annually.
4. Subject to the requirements of the Branch the lecture room may be engaged by any affiliated organisation at a minimum charge of 1/- for two hours. Applications to go through the General Secretary.
5. Those using the Centre to be asked to register their names in the roll book at their first visit.
6. No books, magazines or papers to be loaned out.

The above were presented and approved at a Branch Council Meeting held on 1 October 1913.



Statesmen. Chelsea Royal Hospital. This [illegible] built in 1727 for James Duke of Chandos. It [illegible] large three sided court, one of the first architectural designs of John Wood, Senior. It overlooked the city walls near the west gate, beyond which lay the Kingsmead and the open country. It is now used as a centre for social work.

the beginnings of various educational projects including the foundation of the University's of Wales (1893) and of Bristol (1909).

The Centre enabled the branch to develop the social side of its activities which in turn attracted additional affiliations and an increase in the number of individual subscribers. The tutorial class on Economics which entered on its second year with twenty of its original students was transferred to the Centre and a new tutorial class on English Literature was started.

At its Council Meeting held on 22 December 1913 the branch decided to alter the earlier agreed rules and regulations of the Centre as follows:—

a. To expand rule 4 to include the following: 'The charge for the use of the lecture room by unaffiliated organisations should be two shillings for two hours'.
b. Rule 5 above to read: 'Those using the Centre to be asked to register their names and organisation in the roll book at their visit'.

On the 11 March 1914 the branch was delighted to receive the National WEA President, the Rev William Temple (later Archbishop of Canterbury) who addressed a capacity audience at the Guildhall on the subject of 'The Development of Personality'. Apart from local support the meeting drew representatives from the WEA branches of Bristol, Street, Swindon, and Wick.

FIRST WORLD WAR

There was an uncertainty as to whether the WEA should close down for the duration of the War, or struggle on in the face of difficulties. However, Professor George Leonards of Bristol University and President of the Bristol Branch wrote an open letter to the District Secretary which was published in the Western Daily Press on 29 August 1914. In his letter he stated that the WEA had a special role in the crisis by providing lectures and classes on Modern European History, International Relations, the War itself and the eventual reconstruction, emphasising that these should not be restricted to what were called "British Interests", immensely important though they were, but something larger and better, the general interest of mankind.

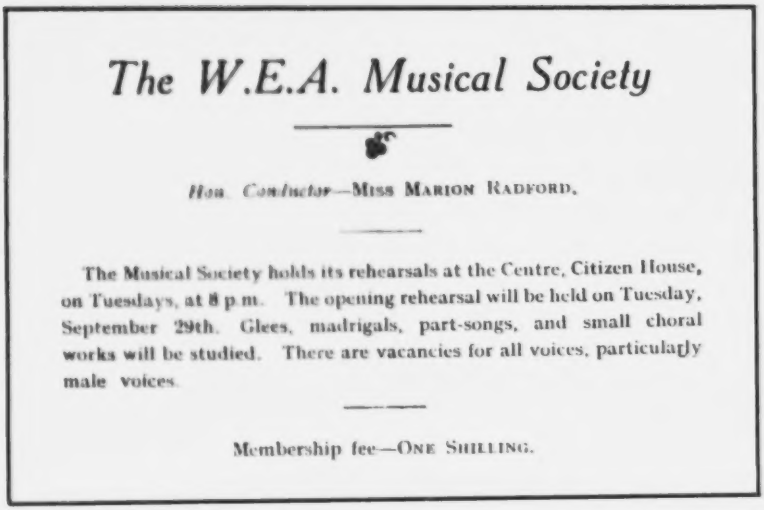
The Bath Branch were sufficiently impressed by the contents of this letter that arrangements were made for 500 copies to be printed and distributed to members. At its next committee meeting the branch decided that "attempt should be made to conduct our work as far as possible on our usual lines".

Social Arrangements

In response to a desire expressed by several members, a special Social Committee has been appointed to make arrangements for social gatherings, fire-side talks, discussions and musical evenings. It has been decided to hold such gatherings at the Centre on Saturday evenings, and a programme is being drawn up. Suggestions for developing this part of the work of the Branch will be gratefully received.

Bath Branch Programme 1914/15

25



The W.E.A. Musical Society

Hon. Conductor—MISS MARION RADFORD.

The Musical Society holds its rehearsals at the Centre, Citizen House, on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m. The opening rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, September 29th. Glees, madrigals, part-songs, and small choral works will be studied. There are vacancies for all voices, particularly male voices.

Membership fee—ONE SHILLING.

Bath Branch Programme 1914/15

Tutorial Classes however suffered particularly badly, Mr Mason, the tutor of the Economics class received an Army commission, and Miss Jowitt the Literature class Tutor left to take up work with the Friends Mission to Non-Combatants in France. Many of the class students also enlisted. Both classes did however complete their three years and there was discussion on the possibility of arranging a new class on Modern History, but in 1916 Bristol University Joint Committee decided to start no new Tutorial Classes until after the War.

The branch therefore concentrated on shorter courses which in addition to the more serious subjects included Elocution, Esperanto, French Conversation and Home Nursing. The Social Committee and the Musical Society both attracted a large membership and among its many activities the former arranged lectures and entertainment to wounded soldiers in the Bath Hospital, while the latter arranged concerts relating to Belgium with proceeds donated to the Belgium Refugee Fund.

INTER-WAR YEARS

The branch emerged from the war with a strong informal network of activities, though its formal class programme had suffered considerably. The immediate post war years saw a strong recovery, but while the work of the branch grew the nature of its work was changing, becoming less a grouping of affiliated societies and more a gathering of individual members, and societies which at one time were in a position to support the branch found themselves with a declining membership. In addition the branch began to relinquish its role as a co-ordinator of existing agencies for the promotion of workers' education, to one of organising and providing its own classes.

This shift towards developing a more formal class programme was undertaken at the expense of earlier informal activities, the net effect of this was that the branch reached a smaller number of individuals and consequently its membership dropped dramatically. The number of societies affiliated to the branch which had reached a peak of 31 before the war, declined rapidly to level off at around 8 by 1925. Membership which had reached a peak of 170 in 1921 also declined rapidly to 55 by 1925 staging a recovery by the late 1920's, only to decline once more.

Death of Miss Hope

In 1922 Miss Hope had been President of the branch for six years while at the same time she continued with the enormous amount of work for various other societies in the City. For example she served on the Bath Board of Guardians and was a pioneer of the Brabazon Society. She served as hon. secretary and treasurer to the Bath District Nurses' Home at 45 River Street and one of the founders and later Chairman of the Stead Hostel in Pierrepont Street, a hostel for women and girls who could not afford other accommodation in the city except that of the common lodging houses which were open

to both sexes. After her election in 1909 as Bath's lady Councillor she served on the Education Committee (and Chairman of the School Attendance Sub-Committee). She was also a member of the Health Committee where she did especially valuable work on the Maternity and Infant Welfare Sub-Committee, of which she was Chairman, the Mental Deficiency Committee and Selection Committee. She was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1921. However the pressure was building up and due to ill health she was unable to attend the 10th Annual General Meeting of the branch, she was however re-elected President in her absence and the meeting sent its sympathy with her in her illness. In order to try and regain her health she planned a holiday on Caldey Island off Tenby in South Wales. The head of the Monastery, the Reverend J Wilfrid Apsom was well known to Miss Hope and indeed he had stayed at Citizen House on a number of occasions. It was while she was on holiday that her condition deteriorated and she died peacefully on Monday 19 June 1922. She was buried in the small private graveyard on the island itself and on the first anniversary of her death a number of stain glass windows were unveiled in the Abbey Church at Caldey in her memory. Her death was a great loss to the Association.

Changes at Citizen House

After Miss Hope's death the lease of Citizen House passed to her fellow Warden Miss C M de Reyes (later Mrs King). She was a close friend of the Association having lectured on 'Shakespeare' for the branch in the very first year of its existence and then from time to time on the subject of Drama. She had served on the Branch Council as the delegate for the Walker Girls Club during 1913/14 so she was certainly in sympathy with the aims of the Association and the branch expected that they would be able to work as closely with her as they had done with Miss Hope.

But under her leadership the character of Citizen House began

to change, it was to see over the next few years the development of a school of dramatic art to the exclusion of all else. Indeed a contemporary writer wrote that after Miss Hope's death the house gradually became void of citizenship. Certainly for those interested in drama, Citizen House had become a mecca with its own theatre, costume hire facility, library, free advisory bureau and training courses. But for the local WEA branch there was a growing feeling that they were no longer welcomed and coupled with an increasing financial deficit on the Centre Account the decision was made in 1930 to leave Citizen House.

Having made this decision in June, the branch had urgently to consider the matter of alternative accommodation before the commencement of the Autumn term. While this was under active consideration the Secretary wrote to Miss de Reyes formally terminating the agreement for the hire of rooms at Citizen House to take effect from 29 September 1930 and at the same time arrange the orderly removal of the property which the branch had accumulated over the years. However the branch was in for a shock for they were to receive two letters from Miss de Reyes, the first accepting the Councils

THE W.E.A. ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

Hon. Conductor: Mr. A. Hazell, L.R.A.M., 20 Hungerford Road, Bath.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. A. Rushton, 7 Devonshire Villas, Entry Hill, Bath.

This Society meets Tuesday evening each week at Citizen House, 7.30 to 9.30, from October to March, for the study and practice of Orchestral Music. The Society already has a Library of good music, and is fortunate in having a conductor of wide experience.

Will players of any orchestral instruments please communicate with the Secretary?

Fee, 4s. for the Session. To non-members of the W.E.A., an additional 2s. 6d.

Bath Branch Programme 1926/27

29

Notice to give up the rooms, but the second denied their claim to the ownership of the various properties there — chairs, bookshelves, clock, gas fires, blackboard etc. These she stated together with the majority of the books were the property of Citizen House as the rent paid was for 'furnished rooms'.

Now while she probably had a case in respect to the fixings the remaining items had either been given to the branch or purchased from branch funds for their exclusive use, Citizen House itself had never provided anything in the way of furniture. The Secretary was therefore instructed to pursue the negotiations with Miss de Reyes with the view to obtaining possession of the items in question, but while they were convinced in the justice of their claim Miss de Reyes would not budge.

In the meantime Committee Meetings were held in the YMCA in Broad Street while the search went on for alternative accommodation, they were however successful in negotiating the hire of a room at the Stead Hostel in Pierrepont Street, the building which today, though much altered houses the Labour Party Headquarters at Century House. The rent was very reasonable and within two years the branches finances were back in the black. The room itself was furnished so that the urgency of obtaining the items left at Citizen House diminished and the claim was eventually allowed to drop.

WEA Library

The branch was less than six months old when it received on loan a collection of books from the Royal Crescent Reading Circle which was to provide a nucleus for a library. Initially it was difficult to provide a service to members due to the lack of premises, but in February 1913 an offer of a room was received from the Bath Theosophical Society who had recently purchased 10 Laura Place, this kind offer was warmly accepted. However in the event the library was not to stay there many months before the collection was transferred to the WEA's new centre at Citizen House.

The W.E.A. Library

The Library, comprising both Lending and Reference Departments, contains over 700 volumes of standard literature—Philosophy, Sociology, Religion, Fine Arts, Literature, History, Biography, and Travel, supplemented by a fair selection of standard fiction. Newspapers and magazines are provided.

The Library is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., admission being free to all members.

On and after Wednesday, October 7th, the Lending Department will be open for the issue and receipt of books on Wednesday evening of each week from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. All members are entitled to borrow books from the Lending Department on production of their Centre card, and a payment of an annual subscription of one shilling per volume, or one penny per fortnight for each volume borrowed. A period of fifteen days is allowed for the reading of such books that may be borrowed.

A Library Committee has been appointed to manage, regulate and control the W.E.A. Library in all its departments, and it is the sincere wish of the committee that it may receive the hearty support and co-operation of all the Members to make the Library an indispensable and invaluable factor in the work of the Branch.

Bath Branch Programme 1914/15

Once a permanent home had been established offers of books flooded in, in October 1913 the library had reached 180 volumes when approval was given to form a card index system. This was compiled by the branch's first librarian Reginald Wright who was well qualified to undertake the task as he was Assistant librarian to the Municipal Libraries. He stepped down from his position of branch librarian when in 1919 he was

appointed Curator of the Municipal Libraries, which after a change of designation the following year he became its first ever Director, a position which he was to hold until his retirement in 1953.

When the WEA library was set up it was for reference purposes only, but the lack of a Municipal Lending Library in the City meant that pressure was exerted on the Committee to provide this much needed facility. After deliberation the Committee approved the rules and regulations set out opposite which provided a lending section which was to be well patronaged. Initially it was only open for two hours a week but in order to extend this the Committee agreed in 1915 to place a box in the library so that members could take out a book at any time placing a penny in the box and signing the book. To provide some measure of control the Committee authorised the provision of an embossed stamp so that the WEA books could be clearly identified. In the same year a selection of Children's Books were added to the collection.

In addition to books there was a daily supply of newspapers which until 1915 consisted of the 'Daily Mail' and 'Citizen' when for some reason they were discontinued, the Library Committee were instructed to consider the question of alternative papers but their decision is not recorded, supply of daily newspapers was abolished in 1920. From time to time these papers were supplemented by additional magazines, often in the form of gifts, for example one member in 1917 offered to supply copies of the Times Literary and Educational Supplements, while in 1919 another member offered to pay a years subscription for 'Public Opinion', both offers were gratefully accepted.

During the First World War a wave of sympathy went out to the Belgium Refugees lodged in the City and the WEA responded by deciding in September 1915 to allow the Refugees free use of the Library, an offer which was later

WEA LIBRARY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Library and Reading Room are open daily, from 10am to 10pm. The lending department being open for the issue and receipt of books on Wednesday evening of each week from 8pm—10pm.

2. Admission is free to all WEA members, during such hours that the library is open.

3. All members, honorary, ordinary and affiliated are entitled to borrow books from the lending department on payment of an annual subscription of 1/- (per volume) or one penny per fortnight for each volume borrowed — such sums to be paid in advance. Not more than two volumes must be in the possession of a borrower at the same time.

4. Members wishing to be enrolled as borrowers of the Lending Library will be required to present their Centre Cards, to the Hon. Librarian. individual members may obtain a Centre Card, from the Hon. General Secretary, Ivy Leas, Bloomfield Road.
   Affiliated members will receive their cards from the secretaries of their respective departments.

5. All books borrowed must be returned within a fortnight from the day of issue; but may be re-issued to the same borrower providing such books are not in demand by another reader.

6. Certain volumes from the Reference departments will be lent to borrowers under special conditions. Application for the loan of such works to be made personally to the Hon.-Librarian.

7. All books borrowed must be returned during the hours that the lending Departments be open.

8. Any change in the residence of a borrower should be intimated to the Librarian immediately.

9. No book, pamphlet or periodical must be taken out of the library or Reading Room without the permission of the Library Committee.

The above rules and regulations were presented and approved at the Branch Council Meeting held on 9 September 1914.

extended to all soldiers who were accompanied by a member. Also in 1915 a collection box for the War Hospital was placed in the Library.

In 1922 it was recorded that the library now held 1044 books and that in addition to the volumes used for reference in the library itself, 230 had been borrowed. Two years later the City opened its long awaited Lending Library with an enormous choice of books together with longer and more convenient opening hours. The effect on the WEA Library was dramatic for at the next AGM it was reported that the Library was now little used and the suggestion was made that the books should be handed over to the Municipal Lending Library. However the matter was left to drag on and it was not until 1928 that the Committee requested the Secretary to discuss the subject with the Director of the Libraries Mr Wright, out of this came the proposal that a selection should be made from the WEA library of such books as would be suitable to place in the Municipal Libraries and that such books should be labelled as a gift from the WEA. This proposal was accepted and a note to this effect appeared in the Library and Art Gallery Minutes as presented to the City Council on 3 April 1928.

However there were problems with the Trustees over the terms of the Will of the late Miss Hope who had died in 1922, under the Will the lease of Citizen House and its contents had passed to Miss C de Reyes for the benefit of its members. So in view of possible drawn out discussions on this matter it was decided expedient to withdraw the offer and a suitable note appeared in the Library and Art Gallery Minutes as presented to the City Council on 31 July 1928. Librarians continued to be appointed though no further gifts or purchases to the Library were recorded in the minutes, the collection of books remained insitu when the branch left Citizen House in 1930 and they were still there when the final chapter of this famous house came to be written.

A NEW VENTURE

Some Evenings with Greek and Roman Classical Writers and other Subjects of Interest.

In the LIBRARY at CITIZEN HOUSE, on WEDNESDAY EVENINGS at 7.15 o'clock.

DISCUSSION INVITED

1926.
Oct. 6. "**Horace.**" Professor Sonnenschein.
„ 20. "**Masters of Ceremonies—Beau Nash and Others.**" T. Sturge Cotterell, Esq., J.P., M.B.E.
Nov. 3. "**Plato.**" Dr. Baskett.
„ 17. "**Reminiscences in Dialect.**" G. J. Long, Esq.
Dec. 1. "**Virgil.**" Frank Richards, Esq., M.A.
1927.
Jan. 19. "**Music.**" Miss Nora Hodges, L.R.A.M.
Feb. 2. "**Homer.**" R. N. Green-Armytage, Esq., *Barrister-at-Law.*
„ 16. "**Position and Prospects of the League in the Light of New Developments.**" W. J. Ainsworth, Esq.
Mar. 2. "**The Purpose of Liberty.**" E. H. Bence, Esq.

Bath Branch Programme 1926/27

Fire, fire, fire

The fire at Citizen House was first discovered on Sunday evening 23 February 1936 by 17 year old Charles Griffin as he was making his way home to Kingsmead Street at around half past nine. As he was passing Citizen House he noticed two or three people peering through a window on the ground floor where a flickering light had attracted their attention. He climbed on to the railing to obtain a better view and saw that the room was on fire, he immediately jumped down and ran to Westgate Street where he met PC Ivor Ridgway, having told him what he had seen they hurried back to Citizen House. Having weighed up the situation the Constable sent the youth off to telephone for the Fire Brigade while he entered the building, on reaching the Hall he discovered that the room on the left-hand side of the passage was ablaze and that the flames had reached the wooden staircase, thus preventing him from ascending to the first floor. After retracing his steps he

was informed by one of the bystanders that there might be someone living in the basement flat, trying the iron gate he found that it was locked, but he managed to attract the attention of the occupant who hurried up the stone steps and was helped over the railings. PC Ridgway asked her whether there was anyone else in the house, and she replied there was a woman and two children upstairs.

The children were Helen aged about seven and Hilary about six of Mr and Mrs Peter King, Wardens of Citizen House. They were at the Everyman Theatre, in London that evening and had left the children in the care of their secretary Miss Jean Scott. At that moment the Fire Brigade arrived and at once a ladder was flung up to a window where it was thought the two children and Miss Scott were. No sign came from any of the windows and they could see nor hear anyone. The Chief Officer (Mr James Hurst) mounted the ladder to the window and then he heard them calling from the next window but one, further towards Westgate Buildings. The ladder was altered to the new position, where the window had been pushed up, the two children were lifted one at a time over the horizontal iron bars which were across the lower portion of the window and were brought safely down. Fireman Hanney, Station Officer Fear and the Chief himself then mounted the ladder to bring down Miss Scott, though overcome with the heat and smoke she was able to descend the ladder herself. A few rungs from the bottom, however, she collapsed and it was necessary to carry her the rest of the way, an ambulance was waiting to take her to hospital though she was not detained overnight.

By this time the fire had got hold of the house, with so much woodwork it became like a roaring furnace, first the roof crashed in and one by one the huge beams of the floors fell down through the gutted building. Nothing could be done to save Citizen House and the firemen concentrated on preventing the fire from spreading to neighbouring buildings. However despite their efforts part of the Employment Exchange

next door at No. 1 Chandos Buildings was destroyed and with it the Women's Section with all its unemployment cards. Two fire engines fought the blaze using altogether an estimated quarter of a million gallons of water through sixteen jets of water. Because of the danger that the fireman ran of receiving electric shocks from their hoses should the water come in contact with the Bath Electric Tramways overhead wires in Westgate Buildings the power was cut off, which meant that the Weston and Newton St. Loe services were at a standstill. In Kingsmead Street four trams were stationary in a row for several hours, and because the cars relied on power from the overhead cables for illumination, hurricane lamps were placed in front of them to warn motorists.

A huge crowd estimated at several thousand had gathered to see the blaze and the police had to close Westgate Buildings and the passage from Westgate Buildings in front of Citizen House to St. Michael's Place in order that the firemen could work without interference and to reduce the danger from falling glass, tiles and masonry. By midnight the fire was under control though the brigade remained on duty throughout the night to damp down the smouldering ruins. Next morning the full effects of the fire could be seen, the building roofless, scourged and gutted by the terrible fire with the sky visible through the burnt out windows. Incredibly some items survived and during the day a quantity of furniture, ornaments, theatrical effects, books and documents were salvaged and taken to the Chapel Court rooms for storage. But included in the many things that were lost were the items of furniture which the local WEA branch had accumulated to equip the Lecture Room and over 1000 books which made up the WEA Library.

Following the fire His Worship the Mayor was to present to Chief Officer J Hurst the Silver Medal and to Station Officer Fear and Fireman Hanney the Bronze Medals of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire in recognition of their brave conduct. Miss Scott was also presented with a Certificate from

the Society in recognition of her meritorious conduct during the fire.

The surviving theatrical items were transferred to 21 Green Park where a costume hire business was carried on, in 1940 the Bristol WEA Players hired costumes for their double presentation of 'The Wedding' by Anton Tchehov and 'Jonah and the Whale' by James Bridie which was performed at the Victoria Rooms, Bristol. The collection was finally sold in 1958 to private buyers.

Soon after the fire plans for the re-building of Citizen House were published but not implimented, and during the Second World War the site was used for an underground air raid shelter. The walls were 14" thick and the roof consisted of 6" of concrete reinforced with 6" square concrete beams and the whole covered in a layer of asphalt. This was to remain until 1970 when it was demolished to make way for the new Rosenberg House which was opened in 1975 to provide additional accommodation for St. John's Hospital.

While Citizen House was not re-built the family established the Little Theatre facing nearby St. Michael's Place, which in due course became a cinema specialising in a mix of minority films with popular re-runs. After the death of Peter and Consuelo King ownership passed to their elder daughter Helen (then Mrs Pitt) while her sister Hilary was a co-director, so maintaining the family business.

Penscot

In 1912 the Adult School Movement was provided with a gift of a Guest House called "Penscot" situated on the Mendip Hills at Shipham near Cheddar. In view of the very close links with the WEA, they placed the facilities at the disposal of the District on the same terms as Adult School members. It was here that the District held its first Summer School in 1919 and its first Trade Union School in 1923, while using it on a regular

basis for Day Schools. In 1932 an appeal was launched which was circulated to all WEA branches in the area, Bath responded with a donation and agreed to place an advert in its branch programme in order to make its facilities better known.

Rambles

RAMBLES

The Rambles Secretaries will gladly send a fixture card to any who wish to join in these excursions. There are few centres of England which are gateways to so much beautiful countryside rich in historical memories as Bath.

It is only by tramping afoot that one can get to know one's country intimately and thoroughly, for most of England's fairest scenery lie among her paths and her unbeaten tracks.

The adjoining counties of Gloucester and Wilts, as well as Somerset, are steeped in antiquarian associations and in the lore and magic of the countryside. Here is a draught of fair England to drink of, and what matchless pictures to gaze upon! How one loves one's country, one's glorious heritage of England, the more one goes into her seclusions and over ground like this, hallowed by memories of the making of her history. And there is a sense of fitness accompanying these tramps, and of happy memories of days well spent.

Bath Branch Programme 1934/35

Between the wars the branch arranged a regular series of rambles during the summer months, one particular ramble was to draw the branch into a series of correspondences concerning the Speke Memorial. It all began when Capt. John Hanning Speke achieved fame when on 12 November 1863 he became the first person to discover the source of the Nile. He was due to relate his story to the British Association Meeting which was to be held in Bath in September 1864, coming to stay at the home of his uncle, Mr George Fuller at his estate at Neston he and his uncle went out partridge shooting on the day which he was to give his talk. It was while he was climbing

over a low stone wall on the estate that his gun went off accidentally and he received a fatal wound.

As a memorial to the gallant explorer his family arranged for Monsieur Gardis who lived in Bath to produce a bronze bust of Capt Speke. This was held in the family for many years until the death in April 1930 of Mrs Sophie Murdock of Buckhurst near Wokingham who was from Speke's sister's family. It was her children who sold the bust to the Royal Geographical Society for £5. Today it is proudly on display in the entrance hall of the Society's headquarters in Kensington Gore in London.

For the benefit of the public the President of the Royal Geographical Society launched an appeal for funds towards a suitable memorial, this was done in a letter to The Times on 29 September 1864. It is thought that the money raised by this appeal went towards the cost of a memorial stone set in the wall where Capt Speke met his death. The inscription reading:

HERE
THE DISTINGUISHED AND ENTERPRISING
AFRICAN TRAVELLER
CAPT JOHN HANNING SPEKE
LOST HIS LIFE
BY THE ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION
OF HIS GUN
SEPT 15TH 1864

On Saturday 5 May 1923 a group of Bath WEA students took the footpath north from the A365 Box to Atworth road to Lents Green, this took them past the memorial stone (ST 843 675) and they noted that the inscription was almost undecipherable. This resulted in a letter from the Branch Secretary to the

Spoke memorial at Chapel Plaister

The Workers' Educational Association.

(Bath and District Branch. Founded May, 1907).

TO PROMOTE THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF WORKING PEOPLE.

The Association aims not only at consolidating a desire for knowledge, but also at bringing the Workers [illegible] more constant work, though they are anxious and willing. Hitherto this desire. The range of its methods is from Tutorial to University.

THE ASSOCIATION IS ENTIRELY UNSECTARIAN & NON-PARTY POLITICAL.

Sydney Bloomfield Park.

BATH. 8th May 1923

Dear Sir,

During the course of an educational walk on Saturday last some of our members visited the memorial to John Manning Spoke at Chapel Plaister, near Box, Wilts.

They found the memorial very fairly preserved but extremely difficult to read the inscription

Being ignorant as to who is responsible for the care of the monument, it was felt that it would be wise to write to you in the hope that your Society would cause - either directly or indirectly - the memorial to receive the attention it needs. We feel sure it is one of the aims of your Society jealously to guard the memory of their faithful and distinguished servants.

Yours faithfully,

E. H. Spencer

Hon Sec.

The Secretary,
Royal Geographical Society

Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, in the resulting correspondences the branch recommended a qualified local stone mason who would undertake the work at no charge. A letter was also sent by the Society to the then John Fuller but there is no reply in the Society's records so it is not known if the work was put in hand, but the inscription today is in excellent condition.

Speke Memorial 1987

Councillors and Magistrates

In 1938 the National Association produced a booklet entitled 'The Adult Student as Citizen' which was a list of past and present WEA students serving on public bodies. Listed District by District the section covering the Western District included 183 names, of these 9 came from Bath:—

Mr P Browning	Magisterial Bench
Mr H Cordiner	Education Committee
Mr R Hope	Magisterial Bench
Mr G Long	City Council
Miss L Mantell	Education Committee
Mr W Maxim	City Council
Mr H Price	City Council
Mr S Rawlings	City Council
Miss M Walker	Child Welfare Committee

SECOND WORLD WAR

The First World War brought grief to the bereaved, care for the returning wounded and the necessity to house refugees, but essentially it was a war fought abroad. In contrast, the Second World War was also a war fought by civilians at home and this was to bring added complications of lack of accommodation, blackouts, fire-watching, air raid alerts, evacuations, disruption of transport and petrol shortage.

During the period of tension leading up to the Declaration of War, the District had sounded out both the Board of Education and the LEA's to obtain their assurance of future support, and on 5 September 1939, two days after the outbreak of hostilities, the District Office sent out letters to all branches and affiliated organisations to advise that it was the intention to continue the planned programme as far as possible. Following consideration of this letter the Branch Committee decided to carry on with its activities and an announcement to this effect appeared in the local Press.

W.E.A. WINTER SESSION

In spite of existing difficulties, the committee of the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association has decided to carry on its usual activities as far as possible during the coming winter session.

Copies of the branch programme giving full details and syllabus of the classes, etc., may be obtained on application to the hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. Ashman, 40, Triangle, Bath.

Bath & Wilts Chronicle, 19 September 1939

This enthusiasm and determination was to carry the Branch through the War and even through the number of classes were reduced as the War intensified, never at any time did the work cease altogether.

The arrival of the Admiralty had two effects on the branch, first it provided additional support for its classes with one class provided at the specific request of the Draughtman's Association, but secondly the enormous influx of personnel meant that every available large building was requisitioned for the war effort. From the Autumn of 1941 the branch lost the use of the Stead Hostel and it was a case of trying to find any available room on something like a regular basis. It is to the credit of the Secretary and members of the Committee that such rooms were found, they included the YMCA in Broad Street, the Co-operative Education Rooms in Green Park, the Percy Institute in Charlotte Street, St. James's Mission Hall in Lower Borough Walls and Cannings College in Northumberland Buildings.

The 1940/41 Session was the first to be disrupted by air raid warnings and students would hurriedly grab their gas masks and notebooks and gather in the cellar or in the nearby shelter until the all clear was given, and then if it was not too late to re-assemble to resume where they had left off. On the majority of occasions when the sirens were heard it was for the German planes passing over the city, some on their way to Bristol which was bombed with a frequency not experienced by Bath, while others were on their way to the industrial centres of the Midlands and the North.

But on two consecutive nights over the weekend of 25 and 26 April 1942 it was the turn of Bath to experience heavy bombing. At the end of two nights 417 people were dead and a large number of buildings were either totally destroyed or badly damaged. Churches were to be badly hit and one St. James's Church in Stall Street had its interior completely gutted and later the shell was demolished. Just a few yards from the Church was St. James's Hall in Lower Borough Walls where two days later would have been one of the regular WEA meetings of Mr Percival's class on 'Education and the Working Class 1750-1939', even though the hall survived the raids it

was decided in the circumstances to cancel the class after only two of the six meetings had been held.

The following announcement appeared in the local Press, for the shattered people of Bath no further explanation was necessary.

Workers' Educational Association

BATH BRANCH

Mr. A. Percival's Class Discontinued.

Bath & Wilts Chronicle, 15 May 1942

Even though some classes were moved to Sunday afternoons to suit those students involved in overtime and shift working, the total number of classes steadily declined as the War progressed. The branch even launched a three year Tutorial Class, but after a delay in the start of the second year, the resulting enrolment forced the branch to close the class.

In 1942 revised government regulations, referred to as Article 9, Amended Regulation No. 3 allowed the WEA to provide activities which would not have previously counted towards grant aid. The branch took advantage of this scheme to organise a series of successful courses for the Women's Voluntary Service. These helped to sustain the work of the branch until 1944/45 when there was some recovery, with the branch arranging six classes, attracting 132 enrolments.

THE POST WAR YEARS

The branch faced the post-war period with optimism and was encouraged with the response to its expanding programme of classes which almost every year set new records. Because of uncertainty over the type of class provision the public required, the branch initially concentrated on short courses of 6 and 12 meetings duration. Very soon however the number of 24 meeting courses began to increase and in 1946/47 the first Tutorial Class of three years duration was started. By 1948/49 the total number of 24 meeting courses exceeded the total number of shorter courses, and with the exception of two years, the longer course dominated the programme for the next 13 years.

After the War the Stead Hostel was no longer available and accommodation remained a problem. It was therefore decided to make an approach to the Principal of the Technical College to enquire about the possibility of obtaining accommodation at the College for at least some of its classes. The College was then situated in the former premises of the Royal United Hospital in Beau Street, a building which despite the construction in recent years of new purpose built blocks, still forms part of the College Complex. This approach to the Principal received a favourable response and in 1947/48 the branch's entire programme of evening classes was arranged in the College, though the branch had to pay for the rooms so occupied. The use of the College building allowed a further expansion of class provision for by 1948/49 the branch launched a programme of ten classes with a total enrolment of 347 students, over 2½ times that achieved in 1938/39, which itself was considered a good year for the inter-war period. The use of College facilities though welcomed did mean some loss of identity, particularly as the College's own evening class programme began to expand.

In addition to this general provision for members of the public

the branch also provided short courses at the request of the Weston Townwomens' Guild and Bath Co-operative Society, while at the same time actively supporting the development of the Somerset WEA Branch Federation which had been formed in 1945.

1949 then, showed every sign of promise and the branch was riding high, but there was a movement abroad which was already undermining the whole future of the WEA both locally and nationally The 1944 Education Act had made it a duty of the LEA's "to provide adequate further education facilities", this resulted in an expansion in LEA provision, and while admittedly the vast majority were vocational and recreational, and therefore not within the remit of the WEA, an increasing proportion of classes were in liberal academic subjects.

To make matters worse, the District found itself under pressure from its old ally, Bristol University Extra-Mural Department, for while the Resident Tutors continued to serve the branches well, an increasing proportion of their time was to be spent arranging classes independently of the WEA. While the above was the pattern that was beginning to emerge over the District as a whole, in Bath this shift was not so evident. The University of Bristol through its Resident Tutor for Somerset continued to provide the Branch with a considerable amount of assistance and joint WEA/University courses were to rise in real terms and on a percentage basis, representing 42% in 1950 and 80% in 1960.

The second change was a feeling that voluntary agencies, including the WEA had had their day and that statutory bodies would in the future provide for the majority of the needs of the people. The seed of this idea had been planted when in 1946 the newly elected Labour Government passed the National Health Act with the aim of organising a comprehensive and free medical service in England and Wales. This concept of the 'Welfare State' as it became known developed a wide-

spread belief that future governments of whichever political persuasion would provide everything from the cradle to the grave. This feeling seemed to be confirmed when the public were to see a very rapid increase in the size of the public sector of the economy. Within five years of the end of the war, the Bank of England, civil aviation, railways, the coal industry, electricity, gas and iron and steel were all brought into public ownership under a programme of nationalisation.

The third change involved a crisis of identity within the movement. The proportion of manual workers attending classes was falling and the idea of the WEA providing the working class student with a rigorous course of study for social purpose was being replaced by the reality of the middle class student attending a less demanding course for personal satisfaction. The above factors taken together were to result in a loss of confidence, many students were to leave the WEA. Classes and resulting student enrolments declined and within the branch only one in three students was sufficiently committed to become an individual member of the Association.

Almost the last straw came in 1953 when the Minister of Education, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, proposed a 10% cut in grant aid for adult education. In the course of the resulting campaign of protest, the TUC Education Committee made a direct approach to the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, and following his support of the value of adult education, the Minister appointed a Committee to review the Organisation and Finance of Adult Education. This Committee, which was under the Chairmanship of Dr Eric Ashby, Vice-Chancellor of Queens University, Belfast, presented a unanimous report in 1954. It was to give moral support to the Association as amplified in the following extract "we are unanimously of the opinion that voluntaryism as exemplified by the WEA is essential if the spirit of adult education is to be preserved. In common with majority of our witnesses, we should regard it as a calamity if the traditions of the student-organised and student-controlled class

were to vanish". This encouraging statement together with a growing confidence in the voluntary movement was to reflect itself in a progressive improvement in branch provision.

Representation on Branch Committee

In 1944 the local branch committee consisted of a President, 6 Vice-Presidents, secretary, treasurer, literature secretary, press correspondent, three committee members, five representatives from the Education Committee of the City Council, the District Secretary and the University Resident Tutor, the latter two being ex-officio.

Representatives from the Education Committee had been appointed to the branch committee ever since the branch was formed in 1912. It was through this Committee that the annual grant to the Association was made as well as forming the contact that ensured that the Education Committee was aware of the contribution of the WEA in the field of liberal Adult Education. In 1946 the Education Committee was re-organised to form a number of Sub-Committees, one of which was the 'Further Education Sub-Committee' and it was this sub-committee that considered matters relating to the WEA. But with the exception of 1947 none of the members of the Education Committee appointed to the branch committee were members of this Sub-Committee.

This was rather surprising as the 1944 Education Act had laid upon each LEA the duty, among others, "to secure the provision for their area of adequate facilities for . . . leisure time occupation, in such organised cultural training and recreative facilities as are suited to their requirements, for any persons over compulsory school age who are able and willing to profit by the facilities provided for that purpose". In carrying out this responsibility, the LEA was to "have regard to any facilities for further education provided for their area by Universities, educational associations and other bodies" and to "consult with such bodies as aforesaid". And yet the Further Education

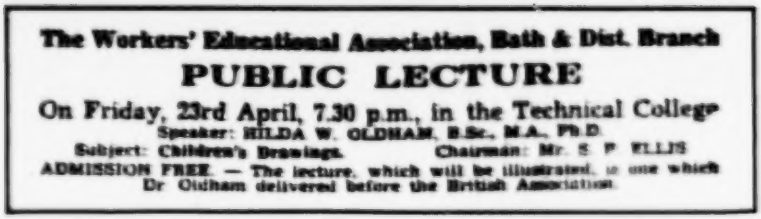
Sub-Committee in Bath had no direct contact with the local branch and no attempt was made to establish such contact either by its Councillors or professional staff in the education field until 1950 when Mr Toft the then Principal of the Technical College and Chairman of the Further Education Sub-Committee deplored the fact that his Committee had no contact with the WEA. This situation was soon rectified when on 12 September 1950 the decision was made to co-op the Technical College Principal onto the branch committee, a decision which was confirmed by the Further Education Sub-Committee at its meeting on 2 October 1950.

This provided a useful contact as in 1951 the Committee were informed that the Sub-Committee had decided that the WEA in Bath would in future be exempt from accommodation charges for classes arranged at the Technical College and on other council property. This is interesting as it came three years before the Ashby Report made a recommendation that LEA's should adopt such a practice and some twelve years before the DES itself issued an Administrative Memorandum to LEA's (No. 6 of 1963) urging LEA's to provide University Extra-Mural Departments and the WEA with full accommodation and to consider covering rents where LEA accommodation was not practicable.

Three years after being granted free accommodation the Technical Colleges own increased programme of classes was to cause difficulty in providing sufficient accommodation for the WEA's own programme, subsequently after discussion with the College authorities one class was arranged in the Weymouth House School (now occupied by Marks and Spencer's store) and one in the Oldfield Boys Secondary Modern School in Wells Road.

Classes in the Suburbs

Because of this increasing difficulty over accommodation the branch decided to set up a sub-committee to explore the



The Workers' Educational Association, Bath & Dist. Branch

PUBLIC LECTURE

On Friday, 23rd April, 7.30 p.m., in the Technical College

Speaker: HILDA W. OLDHAM, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.

Subject: Children's Drawings. Chairman: Mr. S. P. ELLIS

ADMISSION FREE. — The lecture, which will be illustrated, is one which Dr Oldham delivered before the British Association.

Bath & West Chronicle, 21 April 1948

possibility of expanding Adult Education Classes to areas outside the Centre. As a result of these deliberations the 1955/56 programme saw the re-introduction of classes in the suburbs for the first time since the practice had been discontinued in the early years of the Second World War, though it is of interest that the centres now selected were not those which the branch had previously used, indeed the previous centres at Oldfield Park and Walcot could be described as being on the fringe of the City Centre while those now selected were well into the suburbs on the south side of the City.

One class was arranged at the Fosseway Junior School while another was arranged at Southdown Junior School, at the first centre the class unfortunately had to close after the second meeting due to lack of support but the one at Southdown was well supported with an enrolment of 21, though it was observed that few of these actually lived in the Southdown area. Despite these rather mixed results the branch decided in 1956/57 to expand their activities to cover in addition to the previous centres one class at the Twerton C of E School on the subject of 'Young Children Growing Up' though unfortunately it was forced to close due to lack of support. At the other two centres the classes achieved sufficient support for them to continue, the 6 week course at Southdown on 'Bath in Early Christian Times' attracted 9, while the 12 week course at the Fosseway Junior School on 'Bath — its Story and Architecture' attracted a total of 18 students.

In October 1956 an exhibition of school prints was arranged at Southdown Junior School at which the WEA was invited to provide lectures on art appreciation for two of the evenings of the exhibition. This was arranged and two of our part-time tutors Mr Storey and Bob Barrett provided what were later described as 'excellent and well illustrated talks on various aspects of Art', both talks were well supported. However the goodwill generated by this venture was not followed up as the following year saw one class being arranged in the suburbs and that was at Fosseway Junior School.

Having someone interested who lived locally to provide the vital link between the class and the committee appeared to be the key to the successful organisation of such classes and when such individuals drifted away for one reason or another, class enrolment suffered, this together with the difficulty of using public transport between areas without having to travel into the centre, were factors which influenced the committee to decide to discontinue classes in the suburbs from 1958, a situation which remains unchanged today.

50th Anniversary

1953 saw the 50th Anniversary of the National Association at which the branch raised money for a Jubilee Fund and arranged a Social for students and tutors.

1961 saw the 50th Anniversary of the Western District and again the branch was involved in raising money, this time towards a District Jubilee Appeal Fund, when the fund was closed the branch was second only to Bristol in the amount collected towards a total of over £1400. The following year saw the 50th Anniversary of the branch which was marked by organising a Brains Trust.

WEA Centre

In 1965 the branch set up a sub-committee to explore the possibility of using part of the former Georgian Prison at

Bath WEA Jubilee Social — Co-operative Hall, Moorland Road. March 1953

Left to Right

Top Row:— 1st Mr Rochell, District Development Officer (later District Secretary North Wales); 4th Mr Alan Bennett, Music Tutor; 7th Mrs L Todd, Branch Treasurer 1959-69; 8th Mr M Todd, Committee Member 1949-56.

Second Row:— 1st Mr Edmund Mason, Archaeology Tutor, District Chairman 1969-72; 2nd Mr Peter Fryd, District Secretary 1947-80; 3rd Mr P Hattersley, History Tutor; 6th Miss W Ponter, Vice Chairman 1946-68; 8th Mr Donald Oldham.

Bottom Row:— 1st Mr E Ashman (standing) Past Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman, President 1973-81; 3rd Mrs E Mason; 7th Dr Hilda Oldham, Psychology Tutor; 8th Mrs Lydia Ashman, Secretary 1949-54.

16 Grove Street as a WEA Centre. As a result of discussion with the City Council it was discovered that plans were underway to convert the building into an Art Centre.

However this proposal took some time to develop and it was not until September 1968 that the Committee had an opportunity to tour the premises and to view one of the rooms on the second floor that could become the WEA Centre. It was pointed out that if the local branch took over responsibility for this room it would have to cover the cost of decoration and supply of furnishings. After deliberation the committee agreed to go ahead on this basis.

Early in 1969 the branch learnt that the City Council intended to set up an independent Trust to run the Art Centre and that societies involved in the Centre would be members of the Trust. The subject of rent was raised but not resolved and a further complication was that the Fire Officer had insisted on certain structural alterations being undertaken before a number of the rooms

MAYOR AT BATH W.E.A. ANNIVERSARY

A REPRESENTATIVE meeting of the Bath Branch of the Workers' Educational Association was held in the Victoria Art Gallery to mark the opening of the new Winter session, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the branch.

The Mayor of Bath (Coun. Mrs. G. Maw) attended, and other guests included members of the City Library Committee and the Extra-Mural Department of Bristol University.

The chairman, Mr. E. C. Ashman, referred to the inaugural meeting of the branch on May 13, 1912, when Albert Mansbridge, the founder and first general secretary of the association, was the chief speaker.

Mr. P. L. C. Fryd (secretary of the Western District) paid tribute to the excellent work of the branch, and its many devoted workers, mentioning particularly its present chairman, who previously held the office of secretary for 14 years.

After an enjoyable programme of music, contributed by Mr. Alan Bennett, and an interval for refreshments, the meeting concluded with a "Brains Trust," consisting of Mr. Alan Yates (principal of the Technical College), Mr. Peter Pagan (city librarian), Mr. I. Durham (resident tutor, of Bristol University) and Mr. Fryd (district secretary, W.E.A.). Mr. Philip Hopkins (Bristol University) was question-master, and various questions on educational and topical subjects were dealt with.

Bath & West Chronicle
24 September 1962

could be used. All this led the branch to defer any fund raising activities.

In February 1969 a meeting at the Guildhall of interested parties learnt that a number of serious defects had been discovered in the building and all work on the alterations had stopped. Later the scheme was dropped and the building converted into flats.

Rallies

The branch has had a long tradition of hosting Rallies to bring together students from many branches within the District. The first recorded example was in 1931 but it was not until after the war that the frequency of such Rallies increased with Bath playing host every few years.

On 11 June 1949 some 300 students from all over the District gathered in Bath to be welcomed by the Mayor (Councillor L N Punter) and the District Chairman (Henry Crudge). After a tour of the Roman Baths and tea, the party listened to an inspiring address by the WEA National Vice-President Dr R H Tawney.

In 1965 there was a break in the usual tradition when the District decided to combine the Rally with one of its neighbouring Districts — the Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Nearly 220 people from the Western District were to go in coaches and cars to Oxford, where they were joined by some 150 members of the BBO District for a tour of the various Oxford Colleges and, after tea heard an address by Mr J Boyden, MP. Following this valuable joint effort the Western District invited the BBO District back the following year. The date was 7 May 1966 and over 600 students, drawn in approximately equal numbers from both Districts converged on Bath. Visits were arranged in the afternoon to the Roman Baths, the Abbey and to the more notable examples of Georgian architecture in the City. After tea at the Pavilion the Rally was addressed by Mr

Alan Bullock, the historian and Oxford Don on the Educational Explosion. No Rally within the District, either before or since has attracted such large numbers.

In 1978 on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the National Association nearly 300 students gathered in Bath to be welcomed by the District's newly elected President Sir Lionel Russell. There was a choice of visits during the afternoon which included a tour of sites associated with William Beckford; Widcombe Locks, Claverton Pumping Station and the Dundas Aqueduct on the Kennet and Avon Canal; a Narrow Boat Trip down the River Avon and a Narrow Boat Trip down the Kennet and Avon Canal to Bathampton for a tour of the Church. After tea at the Ralph Allen School the Rally was addressed by Dr Keith Hampson, MP, National Vice-President of the WEA and Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Education Committee with responsibility for Higher and Further Education.

Bath students have also actively supported Rallies held elsewhere in the District which in recent years has included Bristol, Salisbury and Gloucester.

Also living in a beautiful City, the branch has often welcomed groups from visiting branches and has been pleased to assist with the arrangements, using WEA students as guides where ever possible. Over the years visits have included students from the following WEA Branches: Reading (1949), Dorchester (1957), Southall (1960), Parkstone, Dorset (1971), Hull (1978), Birmingham (1978), and Southampton (1985).

Classes

As the branch moved into the 1970's and 80's the class programme began to change. The trend was towards shorter courses and fewer joint classes with the University of Bristol.

In 1962 the branch had four three year Tutorial Classes running, but support for these classes steadily declined and

District Rally — 10 June 1978

Left to Right: Michael Turner, Rally Organiser, Leonard Freeman, Chairman of the Bath Branch and Bob Johnson, Tutor Organiser for Avon.

in the Spring of 1974 the last of these classes closed its door. It was a course on Art Appreciation taken by 'Bob' Barrett and was not only the last Tutorial Class to be held in Bath, but also the last in the whole of the District.

In 1960 joint classes with the University of Bristol represented 80% of the branch programme and while in real terms this volume of provision virtually remained unchanged for the next twenty years, the growth in the WEA's own classes meant that by 1980 the joint class provision represented 54% of the total programme. After 1980 severe financial cut backs in the University has meant a drastic reduction in joint classes.

From 1967 the branch began to develop day time classes, some in association with the YMCA 'Fun for All' Programme which provided creche facilities for young mothers, while others in the afternoon attracted the retired who were concerned about going out at night. The bulk of the classes however are still held in the evenings at the College of Further Education.

Class subjects have also changed over the years, gone are the more academic subjects such as Biology, Economics and Geology, and also religious subjects which were once a regular feature of the class programme. In came subjects such as Complementary Medicine, Costume, Family History, Industrial Archaeology, Women's Education, and Writers Workshops. And then there are the subjects which are as popular today as they were 75 years ago, subjects such as Archaeology, Architecture, Art Appreciation, Literature, Local History, Natural History and World Studies (many in association with OXFAM).

Many of these subjects suit themselves to field visits and the branch has arranged many visits over the years to Art Galleries, Churches, Country Houses and Gardens, Estuary's and wetlands for bird watching and Industrial Sites, including in 1984 a tour underground to see a working Bath Stone Quarry. This year following a study of works of literature associated with

Venice, members of the class visited the city itself.

The branch has always been proud of those students who while attending joint classes with the University have achieved high standards of original scholarship. In 1963 the accumulation of several years of research into the history of the Parish of St James, Bath was published. While in 1978 Graham Davies was to start what was to develop into four years of research into Victorian Bath, at the end of each year a separate volume of papers was produced and copies were made available to the students and one deposited in Bath Reference Library.

In the early 1980's the branch put on a series of courses on 'Using Local Radio' in association with BBC Radio Bristol. The course included the necessary technical skills needed to produce broadcast quality tapes, such as recording skills, editing, interviewing, microphone work, script writing and sound mixing. These proved to be very successful and programmes including 'Training Courses for the Unemployed at the Technical College', 'Lack of Music Facilities in Bath' and 'A History of the Pump Room' were later broadcasted.

Also in the early 1980's the branch launched a series of meetings on 'A Parents' Guide to Career Choice' in association with the County of Avon Careers Service. Following a general introductory meeting which often attracted up to 60 parents, the later meetings took the form of workshops designed to assist parents to acquire up-to-date background on a variety of topics related to the choices open to teenagers leaving school both at 16 and 18 years. These successful courses brought the WEA before a larger audience.

From a decline in the early 1960's the branch recovered to reach a peak in 1970/71 with 24 classes, consisting of 293 class meetings attracting 557 enrolments. These figures have declined since then, reflecting the reduction in joint class provision, while a number of WEA courses providing a self

help element have attracted smaller numbers. But educational values cannot be measured in student numbers alone.

Publicity

The branch has directed its publicity both to existing students through its extensive mailing list and to the general public, with the aim of attracting new students. With the latter the branch has adopted several novel and interesting methods over the years, including a broadcast announcement at Bath City Football ground (1939), an advert in the local Classified Business and Trades Telephone Directory (1947), slides produced in conjunction with the Bath Film Society for showing in local cinemas during WEA Week (1948), the distribution of 1000 bookmarks to local libraries (1971), an interview with a tutor on BBC Radio Bristol (1981), and the distribution of leaflets on a joint WEA/Co-op course by the Co-op Milkmen (1985).

Over the past twenty years the branch has developed displays and has used various sites, including the City Information Bureau in Abbey Churchyard, the Britannia Building Society in Milsom Street, the Reference Library in Queen Square and the Central Lending Library in Bridge Street. In more recent years the branch has made use of the 'Learning Opportunities' supplement published by the Bath College of Further Education, 'What's on in and around Bath' supplement and 'Avon Report' to publicise its classes.

Branch Secretaries

The branch has sustained the changes in the past by the dedication of individual branch secretaries who have devoted a great deal of their spare time to foster the work of the Association.

Alwyn Evans who was a native of Bancyfelin, Dyfed and qualified as an electrical engineer, became active with the local WEA Branch wherever his professional duties took him. He was branch secretary at Aberdare in 1935 and involved himself

with the work of the Bath Branch from 1945, becoming Branch Secretary in 1947. Returning to South Wales the following year he was to become Chairman of the Swansea Branch in 1967 and the Chairman of the South Wales District the following year. He was made President of the District in 1980 and in recognition of his work in Adult Education he received the following year an Honorary Master of Arts Degree from the University of Wales. He kept in touch with the Bath Branch over the years, occasionally returning to meet the current members of the branch, the Committee were sorry to hear of his death in April 1985.

Following the resignation of Ted Ashman as Branch Secretary the post passed to Peter Hibbard, Peter was brought up in Weston-super-Mare and on the outbreak of the Second World War moved to Bath to take up a position as a temporary Clerk with the Admiralty, at the end of ten years his appointment was made permanent and in the end he completed 47½ years service in the clerical/administration Civil Service, retiring in March this year. His length of service in the Bath WEA is no less impressive, attending his first WEA class in 1951 his great love was Eighteenth Century English Drama and Literature and he studied for many years under Arnold Hare, University Resident Tutor for Wiltshire. Together with fellow students Peter was one of the contributors to Arnold Hare's book on 'The Theatre Royal, Bath — The Orchard Street Calendar 1750-1805' which was published by the Kingsmead Press in 1977. Joining the branch committee in 1957 Peter undertook various roles such as Literature Secretary, Representative of branch on District Council, Hon. Auditor and Assistant Secretary, before becoming Branch Secretary in 1968, and this year he starts his twentieth year of continuous service in that role.

Tutors

The branch has always been grateful to its part-time tutors who have turned out in all weathers in the winter months in order

to impart their knowledge and enthusiasm for their particular subject. The WEA approach is different in as much that the prepared syllabus has flexibility built in to accommodate suggestions from the students themselves, while providing ample opportunity for questions and discussion. Tutors have encouraged students to discover the subject for themselves through questioning, discussing and reading critically with an emphasis on 'how to think' and not 'what to think'. The tutor and fellow students have often gained considerably from the contribution from an individual member of the class.

Over the years the branch has drawn its tutors from University Lecturers and School Teachers, but has also welcomed individuals from a non-teaching background who have studied a subject as a hobby and have become an acknowledged authority in the subject. All tutors taking WEA classes for the first time are encouraged to attend a residential weekend school sponsored by the District, while specialist courses such as 'Use of Video' are made available as a follow up. A tutors handbook is in course of preparation and this will be particularly valuable to potential tutors as the WEA responds to new areas for study.

Three of our current tutors deserve special mention due to their long service. Gordon Ward has been regularly undertaking courses in Natural History for the past fifteen years, Don Cullen has been regularly undertaking courses in Ornithology for the past twenty years, while the record must go to Bob Barrett who has been taking a course in Art Appreciation every year for the past thirty years and since leaving as Art Teacher at Beechen Cliff Secondary School in 1976, he has additionally been taking an afternoon as well as an evening class, both of which have attracted a large following.

District Full Time Staff

During the immediate post-war period the District Secretary Peter Fryd regularly attended branch Committee Meetings, but

as the work of the District grew, additional full-time staff were appointed to provide practical support, while Peter continued to attend to provide general oversight and advice. From 1953 this practical support was provided by one Development Officer after another, but in 1964 Richard Hunt, one of a growing number of Tutor Organisers was appointed to Somerset. Two years later he was replaced by Andrew Hawker who remained in post until 1970. On his resignation Tutor Organiser areas within the District were re-organised and responsibility for Bath was transferred to the Tutor Organiser for South Gloucestershire — Bob Johnson. Over the past seventeen years the branch has built up a close working relationship with Bob and have been pleased to sponsor the many successful courses in Literature which he has taken in the City over the years.

District and National Affairs

The branch has always actively supported the WEA at both District and National levels.

At District level the branch has always sent representatives on a regular basis to the Council Meetings in Bristol and forwarded motions from time to time to the Annual Conference. Between 1944-47 Mr A. Percival from Bath was District Treasurer, while in 1949 Ted Ashman was elected onto the District Committee to serve continuously until 1967. In 1970 the author became a member of the District Committee and was elected Vice-Chairman in 1983 before standing down from all District appointments in 1986.

At National level the branch has sent a delegate on a regular basis to the Biennial Conference and has occasionally submitted a motion for debate. It was as a result of a nomination by the branch that secured the election of the Right Hon R A Butler as a National Vice-President of the Association in 1957.

CONCLUSIONS

The branch has been sustained throughout its history by a dedicated band of individuals who have given their time and energy to its work, providing its officers, committee members and class secretaries. Many have given long service and special mention must be made of Mr H J Challenger, FCA who has been hon. auditor of the branch accounts for the past twenty-four years.

The branch has also been grateful for the support it has received over the years from organisations, such as the Bath College of Further Education for the bulk of its accommodation, to the library service for an outlet for course publicity, to the former Bath Education Committee for grants towards its work and to the Bath Press for the printing of its programmes. Joint classes with the University of Bristol has provided access to the very highest academic excellence, and while this contribution has declined significantly in the past seven years, there can be no doubt that the branch owes the University a debt of gratitude for the contribution provided over many years.

In this 75th Anniversary Year the branch will be hosting the District Annual Conference in November, for only the third time in the branch's history, the previous occasions being in 1916 and 1978, the latter being part of the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the National Association.

The partnership between the voluntary movement, the full-time staff and part-time tutors has evolved a widely based, flexible and self-questioning organisation encouraging many different interests and individuals. The branch can look back with satisfaction to 75 years of achievement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The information on Mr G C Kingscote's activities in Australia outlined on pages 15 and 17 are based on information extracted from the Minute Books of the WEA Victoria Branch by Douglas Robertson, National Secretary of the Australian Association of Adult Education and kindly supplied by Charles Bentley, General Secretary of the WEA for New South Wales.

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Michael Turner

OFFICERS OF THE BATH BRANCH
1912-87

PRESIDENT

1912-15	Alderman S W Bush
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BATH WEA LIBRARY

LIBRARIAN

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1920-25	Miss Orton
1925/26	Mr A E Tapp
1926-30	Miss Heppenstall & Miss Trimnel

THE LITTLE ROOM
(WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION)
BY NEVILE WATTS

Out of the tumult and dazzle of life and its roaring loom
We gather awhile at evening in the hush of the little room:

The tumult more sullen than silence, the dazzle more blinding than dark;
There are lights we gather to watch for, and songs we gather to hark.

The lamps God lights for our guiding, the songs He wakes for our cheer,
For those have we watched and listened winter by winter drear.

This life of broken fragments, that is so hard to scan,
We strive to piece it together, to find God's perfect plan.

We build the good Republic — no city of cloud or fume;
Firm base to build a world on is the floor of this little room.

One heart with the human-hearted, one soul with the pure and wise,
Our mind is rich with the ages, but our eyes are children's eyes.

We are not wise nor worthy; crippled and dumb and blind,
We are dreams of the Eternal, stray thoughts of the mighty Mind.

Night falls, and the lights are darkened; the room stands hushed and lone;
And forth we wonder our several ways, each to a life of his own.

Hushed and alone we leave it under the watching stars,
Whose peace no tumult shatters, whose calm no dazzle mars.

We shall leave our room to others; we pass as the stars shall pass;
For we are but vagrant fancies, God's breath-mist on time's glass.

But through life fade like flowers and die as a sunset dies,
We have scanned her endless meaning pictured in clearer eyes.

So shall we live for ever, so shall our dreams abide,
Stronger than stablished cities, wide as God's heart is wide.

Yes, 'tis a world we are shaping, nursing to endless bloom.
Out of the infinite riches stored in a little room.

The above poem formed part of a collection of poems entitled 'Pedant Poems' by Nevile Watts, published by Burns, Oats and Washbourne of London in 1937. Nevile Watts taught classics at Downside Abbey, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Somerset and had regularly tutored for the Bath Branch from 1928, it is therefore probable that it was his work in Bath that inspired the above poem. He continued his talks for the branch until 1941 and then between 1947-55 and again between 1961-63. He died in December 1964 at the age of 80.

ALSO AVAILABLE

HISTORY OF THE WEA WESTERN DISTRICT 1911-86

74 page illustrated booklet, price £1.50

SOME THINGS FOR THE BODY, THE MIND ETC

A reprint of a booklet published by the WEA Bristol Branch in 1916 consisting of a collection of recipes and quotations contributed by members of the WEA, both locally and nationally. Price £1.00.

The above are available post free from the WEA District Office, 17 Princess Victoria Street, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4BX.

Ted Ashman

BATH WEA — A PERSONAL ACCOUNT
BY TED ASHMAN

Following my retirement from work in 1961 I have spent many a pleasant half hour or so browsing through my collection of minute books, annual reports and class programmes which record the activities of the Bath WEA from 1912, the year of its foundation, down to the present day. Documents such as these are of course invaluable in satisfying the curiosity of the antiquarian, but make pretty dull reading for less inquisitive minds. Nevertheless, in turning over the pages I became increasingly aware of the fact that in a very real sense I am reliving something of my own past as a long standing and active member of the Association.

The local branch had been in existence for only six years when I attended my first WEA class in Citizen House, so whilst I cannot claim to be regarded as a Founding Father, most of the individuals who had established the branch comprising a few working class men of the artisan type and sympathetic supporters including a retired Major-General and the Chairman of the Bath Education Committee, Alderman S W Bush, were already more or less well known to me. Since I have been so intimately involved in the work of the branch and the Western District organisation for well over 50 years I prefer to regard the following narrative as not so much a history in the conventional sense, but rather a collection of essential facts coloured with some of my personal recollections.

The WEA has often been regarded as the offspring of the University Extension movement and there can, I think be little doubt that the decision to form a branch in Bath was inspired by the work which the movement had established in the City some years before the end of the nineteenth Century. In his "Memoirs of Four Score Years" Sir John Marriott, the distinguished historian and one time MP for York recalls giving

a series of weekly or fortnightly lectures probably in the Guildhall in 1887. Probably in the hope of attracting a rather different type of student from that which attended the Guildhall meetings, a centre of the Oxford Extension movement was formed in Twerton in 1907 when courses mainly in economics and constitutional history were given for a few years in the Oldfield Park Baptist Schoolrooms. According to one of the students, Robert G Naish, the Twerton historian "the lectures were sometimes attended by as many as two hundred students, comprising Trade Unionists, Co-operators, Socialists, Liberal and Conservative politicians and well to do people interested in education. There was a Students Fellowship and a library in connection with the lectures".

Although the Movement did a considerable amount of valuable work in fostering adult education it seems to have had a very limited appeal to the "educationally underprivileged" who having left school at the age of fourteen, or even earlier, were all too conscious of their lack of education in the presence of university scholars or the better educated members of the audience. "Bob" Hope for example, for many years one of the leading spirits in the Bath WEA left school at the age of ten without learning to write. He never had more than a couple of years schooling in his life. Nothing daunted, he attended Extension lectures and at the age of eighty was still attending WEA classes. For several years he was chairman of the Twerton Parish Council and subsequently a City Magistrate. Men, such as he, were unable to attend the morning or the afternoon lectures provided by the Extension movement which attracted persons of leisure or those who could afford to pay a fee, which since the movement was not endowed or subsidised in any way, was necessarily high. Even the common charge of 7s/6d for an evening course, which for the average artisan represented something more than his weekly rent payment, must have been a deterrent to all but the most determined working class student. But perhaps Marriott gets to the heart of the matter when he speaks of his gradual

awareness that University Extension methods were not sufficiently "democratic" enough for working class students who preferred to choose their own tutors and were, above all, in revolt against what they regarded as "middle class economics".

The upshot of all this was the formation of a new nation wide movement the WEA in 1903 — the brain child of Albert Mansbridge (later Dr Albert Mansbridge, CH). Some years later I was introduced and chatted to the great man himself for whom I had an admiration amounting almost to hero worship. This was for me a truly memorable experience. Since most of the students attending my first WEA class were like myself engineering craftsmen working long hours on munitions work during World War I we held our meetings on Sunday afternoons. That we should choose to desecrate the Sabbath in this way so annoyed the Chairman of the Education Committee, Alderman S W Bush, a strict Sabbatarian that even if he was President of the branch he threatened to withhold the grant which the LEA then paid to the WEA and still continues to pay down to the present day. To an organisation which then as now was operating on the proverbial shoe string this was a very serious threat. Much to our relief however the Alderman relented after listening to a deputation of branch representatives.

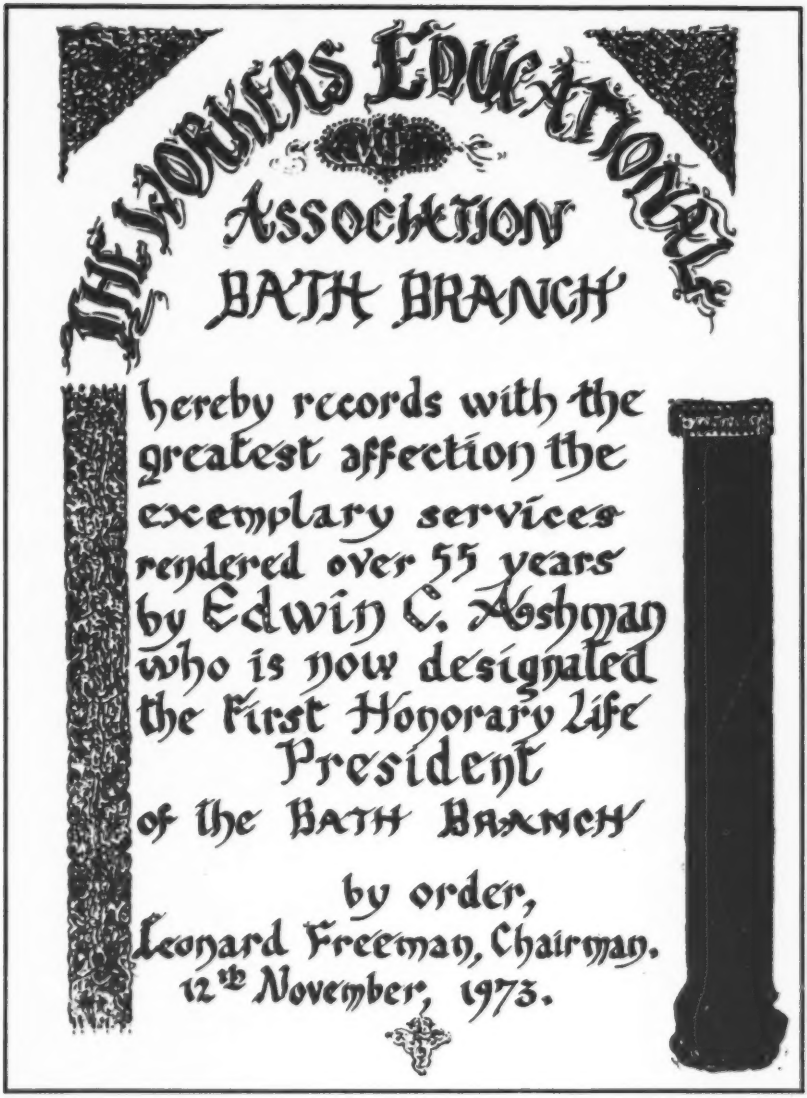
These were the heroic days of the WEA when students undertook to pursue a course of study under University tutors for a period of three consecutive Winters. Having decided to take the plunge. I duly enrolled as a member of a Tutorial Class in Social and Economic History conducted by John Nicholson who later became Vice-Chancellor of Hull University. He and our District Secretary persuaded me to apply for a Cassel Trust Scholarship tenable for a term (a ridiculous short period) at a University. My application being accepted I threw up my job as a patternmaker without any guarantee that it would be kept open for me until my return. I stayed in one of the Halls of

Residence at Bristol University. Owing to shortage of work and the widespread trade depression I had perforce to join the growing army of unemployed workers signing on at the Labour Exchanges and living on the hated so called "dole". This was for me a soul-destroying experience. How I envied the chaps who made some sort of livelihood sweeping the streets. They were at least doing a useful job, albeit for a miserable wage whilst I was little more than a parasite existing in conditions which inhibited any attempt at sustained or serious study. From time to time I managed to get an occasional job, but it never lasted for more than a few weeks.

Eventually things took a turn for the better when the Cassel Trustees awarded me another scholarship, this time tenable for a whole academic year at Bristol University which since I was unmarried and generously excused payment of tuition fees, I gladly accepted. The grant allowance, supplemented by a further small grant from the local LEA was quite sufficient for my needs. I hadn't the necessary academic background for admission to a degree course, and neither had I the ambition to do so and was therefore quite at liberty to pursue the studies in which I was more particularly interested — Economics and Economic History. Since my childhood days I had always been an avid reader and had always advised young people armed with a good dictionary, to cultivate the reading habit. Reading is one of the sovereign remedies against the feeling of boredom which unfortunately seems to affect all too many retired folks. Until such time as the City established a municipal lending library I seemed at times to be living in an intellectual desert. After an enjoyable year at Bristol I once again returned to the Labour Exchange queue from which I escaped when by a stroke of good luck I was offered a job at my old trade at the Westinghouse Works at Chippenham. Based on recent experience I anticipated a period of employment lasting about six months or so. As things turned out it lasted for 34 years when I retired at the age of 65.

During these years I devoted nearly all my leisure time in promoting the aims and objects of the movement to which I owed so much. I was appointed Branch Treasurer, then for a long period Branch Secretary and for a great many years served as Chairman of the Bath Branch — an office I held until my retirement from active WEA work in 1973. I succeeded Bob Hope as a member of the WEA/University Joint Committee on Tutorial Classes and was for many years a member of the WEA Western District Executive (now the Western District Committee). I have had my moments of exuberance when the branch succeeded launching a well attended course with an enthusiastic group of students. I have on the other hand had my share of disappointments when I had the humiliating experience of shutting down a class which failed to attract a sufficient number of students. I was however under no illusion that the WEA was ever likely to develop into a popular mass movement. The words of Aristotle "All men have the need, but few the desire for education" are as true today as when he uttered them long centuries ago.

I count the years spent in organising classes in the Oldfield Park area as among the happiest in my long career in the WEA. The meetings were held in a building in the Moorland Road, originally used as a fee paying dame school, which now houses Bath's first Municipal Branch Library. The classes were concerned with a very extensive range of worthwhile subjects and were invariably well attended. Some of the happiest times of my life were spent in the congenial atmosphere which prevailed as class session succeeded class session. A course on "Health and Human Welfare" was an outstanding success. One of the students managed to get hold of an old magic lantern which he fitted out with an electric light bulb. We purchased a sheet of bed linen to serve as a screen and having in this way succeeded in setting up a visual aid department we were at last able to offer courses of illustrated lectures which added to their attractiveness. As one of our tutors put it WEA folk never think they had their monies worth unless they are



shown some pictures. How often have I taken this cumbersome piece of ironmongery for a tram ride from Oldfield Park to Walcot for use in another class.

The course of lectures given by Father Ethebert Horne, Prior of Downside on Somerset History, Geography and Folk Lore and early Victorian History were particularly popular. Listening to him reading from his neatly written manuscripts which were eventually handed over to the Somerset County Library at Taunton was an unforgettable experience. I understand from the District Secretary that Father Horne never asked or even expected to receive payment for his services. He did a considerable amount of WEA work in Bath and the surrounding district and when on one occasion he told me that Oldfield Park was his favourite class I was overjoyed.

And so now after a very long innings I decided at the age of 77 to retire from the field, I haven't however been content to sit around as an interested onlooker and I have been undertaking the post of Class Secretary for the afternoon classes, a role which I will continue to play for as long as I am able.

The above recollections were compiled in 1973 and were based on notes from a talk he gave to the Bath Co-operative Womens Guild and also to John Haddon's class on Studies in Bath History in 1967. Ted Ashman continued to act as class secretary for a further six years before ill health forced him to give up, he died in May 1981 at the age of 85. He was an inspiration to all who knew him. At the request of his widow a fund in his memory was established in the Western District Office and this was used to purchase a suitably inscribed clock for the office, a gavel for use by the Chairman at District meetings and also covered the cost of bringing the National President — Professor Bernard Jennings to addresss the District Rally held in Bristol in the Summer of 1982.

Michael Turner

Ashman Memorial Clock

The

Workers' Educational Association

(Bath and District Branch)

FOUNDED MAY 9TH, 1913

To Promote the Higher Education of Working People.

WINTER SESSION—1913-14

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES AND SYLLABUS OF SUGGESTED SUBJECTS FOR STUDY CIRCLES

The Association aims not only at stimulating a desire for knowledge, but also at bringing the Worker into direct contact with those who are anxious and willing to satisfy this desire. The range of its outlook is from Workshop to University.

The Association is definitely Unsectarian and Non-Party Political

AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP.

Any Organised Body, approved by the Committee, may become affiliated upon payment of a minimum Annual Subscription of 5/-.

Membership of the Association is open to all Men and Women over 16 years of age.

Minimum Annual Subscription: Ordinary, 1/-; Honorary, 5/-.

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R. W. M. WRIGHT.

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Programme of Lectures

1913	Oct. 21.	"Public and Social Work."	GUILDHALL.
		MISS MARY E. PHILLIPS, *of the Central Employment Bureau, C.S.U., and Industrial Law Committees.*	
,,	Nov. 11	"The Individual and Society."	CO-OPERATIVE HALL, WALCOT.
		MR. PERCY ANSTEY, B.Sc.	
,,	,, 26.	"The British Democracy and the Educational Outlook."	GUILDHALL.
		PRINCIPAL GILBERT SLATER, M.A., D.Sc., *Ruskin College, Oxford.*	
1914	Jan. 14.	"Some Social Aspects of Education."	GUILDHALL.
		PRINCIPAL R. A. JONES, M.A., *Birmingham University Training College.*	
,,	,, 29.	"Wordsworth."	CO-OPERATIVE HALL, WALCOT.
		MR. LAURIE MAGNUS, M.A.	
,,	Feb. 11.	"Things Lovely and of Good Report."	GUILDHALL.
		PROFESSOR G. H. LEONARD, M.A.	
,,	,, 19.	"Alcohol: Its Uses and Abuses."	BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM,
		DR. O. C. M. DAVIS.	OLDFIELD PARK.
,,	,, 26.	"Handel."	CHURCH INSTITUTE, WIDCOMBE.
		MISS LUCY KING.	
,,	Mar. 11.	"The Development of Personality."	GUILDHALL.
		REV. WILLIAM TEMPLE, M.A., *President of the W.E.A.*	

These Lectures are free to Hon. and Ordinary Members, and to Members of Affiliated Organizations.

DOORS OPEN AT 7.30 P.M. *Chair to be taken at 8 p.m.*

Special Courses for Men and Women

The University of Bristol Joint Committee.

TUTORIAL CLASSES

THE STUDY OF ECONOMICS.

AT	DATE.	TUTOR.
The Centre	*Thursdays*	Mr. Percy Anstey, B.Sc. Econ.

THE STUDY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

The Centre	*Tuesdays*	Miss Lettice Jowitt.

During the Winter, each Class will hold twenty-four Meetings—one hour lecture and one hour classwork.

In Association with the Bath Education Authority.

THE STUDY OF PHILOSOPHY.

AT	DATE.	TUTOR.
The Centre	*Fridays*	Miss C. M. de Reyes, B.A.

Twenty-four Class Meetings, each of two hours' duration, will be held, commencing on Friday, October 17th.

THE HISTORY OF MUSIC.

AT	DATE.	TUTOR.
The Centre	*Wednesdays*	Miss Marion Radford, B.A.

Twelve Class Meetings, each of two hours' duration, will be held, commencing on Wednesday, October 22nd.

As the Classes are limited to about thirty members, early application is desirable.

Further particulars may be obtained from the

Hon. Secretary,
Mr. E. H. Bence,
13 Junction Road, Bath.

List of Lecturers and Subjects for Study Circles

SESSION 1913-14

MR. E. H. BENCE, 13 Junction Road.

1. Class Teaching: The Theories of Herbart. (For S.S. Teachers.)

MISS M. M. BRINKWORTH, M.A., 3 Mount Beacon.

2. Botany.
3. Geology.

Alderman S. W. BUSH, J.P., "Brantwood," Southstoke.

4. Ruskin.

Not on Fridays.

MR. E. H. COX, F.R.H.S., Plantal Nursery, Southdown.

5. Plant Life.
6. Fertilizers.
7. Soils.

MR. A. GODFREY DAY, A.M.I.M.E., The Technical School.

8. How a Photograph is Taken.
9. A Magnet.

Class must consist of at least 40.

MR. J. D. HALLIBURTON, Victoria Park Lodge.

10. Conducted Tours of the Park and Botanical Gardens.

Parties by arrangement.

MISS M. HOLMES, B.A., Homerton College.

11. Sonnet Sequences in English Literature.
12. Certain Novels of Fielding and Richardson.
13. Shakespeare; not less than four Lectures.
    (*a*) Early Plays (*b*) Histories
    (*c*) Comedies (*d*) Tragedies
14. French Educationists: Rabelais, Montaigne, Mme. de Maintenon, Mme. de Genlis, Rousseau.
15. Historical Subjects.

Councillor MISS H. A. HOPE, Rock House.

16. Local Government.

MR. R. H. HOPE, 49 Maybrick Road.

17. What is the W.E.A.?

MISS JAMES, Calton House, Clifton.

18. Labour Exchanges for Women and Juveniles.

86

MAJOR A. G. JOHNSON, 2 The Grove, Weston Park.

19. A Series of Four Lectures on the Organisation of Industry—
    i. The Competitive and Co-operative Motive Forces in Society.
    ii. Free Competition—Home and Foreign—in Nineteenth Century England.
    iii. Over-Competition the Cause of Industrial Unrest and Disorder.
    iv. The Regulation of Competition. (A proposed plan.)
20. The Principles of Taxation.
21. Cheapness as the Aim of National Economy.
22. Foreign Commerce: Its Values and Dangers.

Class must consist of at least 12 and not more than 50.

MISS E. M. LAWSON, 45 Combe Park.

23. Biography: Richard Baxter. William Law.
24. Poor Law: Past and Present.
    i. The Workhouse. How it came. Should it go?
    ii. Out-Relief. Much? Little? or None?
    iii. Provision for Children—institutions large and small Boarding-out.

Not before November. Small Circles preferred.

MR. A. G. LEGARD, M.A., Brow Hill, Batheaston.

25. A Chat about Surnames.

MR. G. H. LESLIE, B.Sc., Quorndon, Penn Lea Road.

26. The Romance of Mathematics (Historical).
27. Problems concerning the Education of the Worker.

Not on Wednesdays. Month's notice required.

DR. M. E. H. MORRIS, 19 Gay Street.

28. Talks to Women.

After Christmas.

MR. R. GEO. NAISH, 8 Brougham Hayes.

29. International Co-operation.
30. The W.E.A. and the Life Struggle.
31. The Rise in Prices.

MR. A. NEWING, 11 Cynthia Road.

32. Our National Food. How we get it.

MR. PILKINGTON, 47 Salisbury Road, Redland, Bristol.

33. Skilled Trades.

MR. A. E. POPE, 31 Milsom Street.

34. Arnold Bennett.
35. Sources of Information.
36. Social Reclamation.

Not on Thursdays.

MISS MARION RADFORD, B.A., Citizen House.

37. A Series of Eight Lectures on Zoology: Animal Life.
38. A Series of Six Lectures on Elementary Anatomy and Physiology. The Body and the Process of Living.

Not on Wednesdays.

MISS C. M. SPENDER, 34 Marlborough Buildings.

39. History.
40. Poetry or General Literature.
41. Architecture.

MISS L. STORY, Royal School, Bath.

42. One or two Non-scientific Talks on Traces of Bygone Civilizations in England. (With Lantern Illustrations.)

After January 25th. Large Circle preferred.

MR. W. SWAIN, M.R.San.I., 26 Devonshire Buildings.

43. Town Planning.

After Christmas.

MR. LESLIE TOKE, Stratton-on-the-Fosse.

44. The Christian Idea of Property.

MR. H. R. WILKINSON, A.R.C.A., The School of Art.

45. Art Topics.

Month's notice required. Small Circle.

MR. R. W. M. WRIGHT, The Reference Library.

46. The Public Library and its Place in the Sphere of Education.
47. How to Use a Library to Advantage.

Regulations

1. In the application form the details must be completely filled in.

2. A stamped addressed envelope must accompany this form and any other communication to which a reply is expected.

3. Communications with lecturers should be made through the Honorary General Secretary.

4. Applications will be dealt with in the order they are received, and they should be sent as early as possible.

5. Three days before a lecture, Secretaries of classes must send the *leader* a reminder, and mention the place and time of meeting. Any unexpected change after should be *telegraphed* at once.

6. A report of the class should be sent to the Honorary Secretary before the end of March.

As the whole work is voluntary and most generously offered by busy people, it is urged that the *utmost consideration* be shown by the careful observance of the above regulations.

The promise to help has been in all cases made subject to the hour and day being convenient to the leader.

Care should be taken to avoid Study Circle meetings clashing with the Guildhall Lectures.

Application forms may be obtained from the Hon. General Secretary.

The Bath W.E.A. Centre.

Rooms have been engaged and furnished at Citizen House (adjoining the *Labour Exchange*) for Class Work, Lectures, and Social intercourse.

Hon. and Individual Members, and Members of Affiliated Organizations, are entitled to all the advantages of the Centre. Cards for this purpose may be obtained from Secretaries of Organizations.

Special regulations have been drawn up for the use of the Library. These are displayed in the Library, and Members are asked to make themselves acquainted with them, and to observe them.

The Official Organ of the Association is

"THE HIGHWAY,"

A Journal of Education for the People

Particulars of Summer Excursions, Discussions at the Centre, and any necessary alterations to the Lecture Programme will be notified in the Western inset.

HELPFUL BOOKS FOR STUDY CIRCLE STUDENTS

THE SOCIAL WORKERS' GUIDE. A Handbook of Information and Counsel for all who are interested in Public Welfare. Edited by the Rev. J. B. Haldane, M.A., *Secretary of the Southwark Diocesan Social Service Committee*, with assistance from Fifty Experts. In crown 8vo, cloth, 500 pp., with over 500 articles. **3s. 6d.** net.

"A book of reference of more than average value. The need of such a book is patent, and we do not know of any other publication which attempts to supply it. The notes are arranged in alphabetical order, and, generally speaking, they are wonderfully exhaustive."—*Guardian.*

OUTLINES OF THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND. A Study in Social Development. By H. O. Meredith, M.A., M.Com., *Fellow of King's College, Cambridge; Professor of Economics, Queen's University, Belfast.* In demy 8vo, cloth gilt, 376 pp. **5s.** net.

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THE STUDENT'S GUIDE TO POLITICAL ECONOMY. By F. H. Spencer, D.Sc., LL.B., *Lecturer in Economics and Director of the Day Commercial School, City of London College.* A Manual for Classes and Students in Commercial Schools. In crown 8vo, cloth gilt, 224 pp. **2s. 6d.** net.

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